

# Protecting and Safeguarding Children and Young People

## Diocesan Policy

October 2009  
revised 7 November 2009

future  
faithful

## Policy

Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility. Whilst not a statutory duty for the Church Of England, there is a clear moral responsibility on everyone to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as laid down in the Children Act 2004.

In his report into the death of Victoria Climbié, Lord Laming comments that the support and protection of children cannot be achieved by any single agency [or organisation] and that everyone has to play their part.

"The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community. It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principles enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children. It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the approved statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary."

The Diocese of Bradford fully endorses the above statement and sees it as the basis for all work in this important area.

Child protection and the abuse of children can only be considered in the context of the wider role of the family in society and the relationship between family, communities and the state. The interaction between these is never static. The last forty years, in particular, have seen major changes in the structure of families, and this process has involved debate about the care and nurture of tomorrow's adult population and a belief in the rights of children to be protected as they grow. The health of a society can be judged by its care and concern for its most vulnerable members.

## Responsibilities of the Diocese

The guidance in "Protecting All God's Children" is that all dioceses must:-

- Adopt the policy of the House of Bishops.
- Provide a structure to manage child protection in the Diocese and appoint a suitably qualified adviser, accountable to the Bishop of Bradford;
- Include the monitoring of child protection in parishes as part of the archdeacons' responsibilities;
- Ensure all clergy, paid employees and volunteers in contact with children complete a confidential self declaration form.
- Use the Criminal Records Bureau and the Vetting and Barring Scheme to check the background of clergy, paid workers and volunteers who need to obtain disclosures.
- Provide access to a risk assessment service where an unclear disclosure is received, so that the Diocese can manage any risk posed by individuals or activities within the Church;
- Provide training and support on child protection matters to parishes and all other relevant diocesan organisations;
- Provide a handbook of procedures and recommended good practice, to enable parishes and others to undertake their duties, giving strong encouragement to PCCs to adopt a parish policy alongside the procedures and good practice produced by the Diocese.

*In order to fulfil these requirements the Diocese of Bradford will make all parishes within the Diocese aware of this Policy and associated procedures. The Diocese will request each parish to adopt and implement a Policy (based on the House of Bishop's guidelines). Procedures and good practice will be provided by the Diocese, and it will take reasonable steps to ensure that parishes follow these.*