

Little Way Healing Ministries

New Spring Trust



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Guidelines

Introduction:

As a Ministry rooted in the Roman Catholic Church and working towards becoming an Association of Christ's Faithful, we fully sign up to the current National Safeguarding Guidelines for Children and Vulnerable Adults for the Catholic Church in England & Wales, as well as for the Catholic Church Scotland. Along with many dioceses, LITTLE WAY HEALING MINISTRIES (LWHM) – NEW SPRING TRUST (NST) have adopted the following policy statement from *A program for Action* by Lord Nolan:

“The Church recognises the personal dignity and rights of children towards whom it has a special responsibility. The Church and individual members of it undertake to take all appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment for all and to practise fully and positively Christ's ministry towards children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Church authorities will liaise closely with statutory agencies to ensure that any allegations of abuse are promptly and properly investigated.”

Criteria for those in the Ministry to pray with people:

When individuals have attended the initial six-day LWHM foundation course they are not yet ready to pray the LWHM prayer with the public. If they would like to be part of LWHM, they are asked to join a Cell Group and attend gatherings, at which further training takes place, and they can practise the LWHM prayer with people who are experienced in the LWHM prayer. There will also be additional 'prayer training' weekends available. With their Cell Group leader, and regional coordinator, the leadership team will discern whether or not they are ready to offer the LWHM prayer. Part of their on-going development is a commitment to deepen their spiritual growth, and to be leading and working within the guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church. After the foundation course individuals are able to come to public events and help as part of the Ministry, but only after the Ministry Leadership Team has reviewed the individual's DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service - previously CRB checks) certificate or in Scotland, their PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) certificate - for both children and vulnerable adults – and ensured they have met the Ministry's safeguarding criteria. Individuals might already have an enhanced DBS for their Parish work, but we have been advised by CSAS that the level of contact that we have with vulnerable adults and children in our Ministry requires a 'basic DBS'. Individuals will need to apply for this on-line, via the Government Basic Disclosure and Barring (DBS) Service: www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record.

Once completed, the DBS number should be sent to the LWHM administrator.

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Scotland - people are also advised, if needed, to contact the Scottish Safeguarding Service: www.scottishcatholicsafeguarding.org.uk.

Individuals also need to attend their diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults training and then send a copy of their Certificate of Attendance to the LWHM administrator.

If unable to attend face-to-face training, CSAS recommends that they complete the EduCare Online Training for Safeguarding Children & Adults: www.educare.co.uk.

Team members and all those praying are requested to be familiar with their own Diocesan Safeguarding Manuals and to download the appropriate documentation, as needed, from the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service, CSAS website: www.csasprocedures.uk.

For reference, the Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Manual:

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding, is very comprehensive and easily accessible as a useful resource, and refresher to keep every participant up to date.

Praying for Children:

Our Ministry is predominantly a ministry for those over 18 years of age; however, there will be times at public Healing Events when children will be brought up for prayer. If the child is a baby - under 2 - and the parents are requesting prayer, we will only do this with their permission. There may be times when parents bring an older child up for a short prayer, because the parent want their child to receive prayer. It is very important to ask the child if they would actually like a prayer and, if they are unsure or do not want it, to explain that it is perfectly reasonable and acceptable to decline the kind offer of prayer – and to explain to the parents that, on this particular occasion, their child does not desire a prayer - but should that later change, they would be welcome to return. The child's free will always needs to be respected and heard.

There may also be times when parents request the longer LWHM prayer for their child. Again, we would explain that it is best for the child to make that decision for themselves, when they are 18 years of age. Occasionally, a child over 14 may request the LWHM prayer for themselves. We would advise people not to do this but, in some circumstances, with the parent's permission, and if we felt the young person had sufficient information from us to make their own choice, we may offer it. Ministers should not otherwise use the LWHM prayer with people under 18 years.

Praying for Vulnerable Adults:

A Vulnerable Adult is defined as 'someone age 18 or over who is, or maybe, in need of community services, due to age, illness or a mental and physical disability; who is, or maybe, unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation'.

The core definition of 'Vulnerable Adult' was taken from the 1997 Consultation 'Who decides?', issued by the Lord Chancellor's Dept.

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Again, in LWHM we do not pray the LWHM prayer with Vulnerable Adults. Their family may want them to have a short prayer but, in order to respect the control and rights they have over their lives, prayer ministers should ask them if prayer is something that they would like to receive.

Code of Confidentiality:

People who come to us for prayer should feel that their time with us is marked by respect, trust and confidentiality. Generally, we do not speak afterwards of anything that happened in the prayer without the person's permission; however, there are some exceptions. Apart from the role of the priest in confession, the confidentiality that we work to is limited when there is clear and imminent danger to the person - or others.

At the beginning of each LWHM prayer, we say:

"What you share with us is confidential - we do not speak about anything that you have shared without your permission; however, should you or another be at significant risk of harm, then we will discuss that with you at the end of the prayer and work within the safeguarding guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church."

Historic Sexual Abuse:

Should an historic issue of abuse arise, and the perpetrator is still alive, then even if the person receiving prayer does not want to pursue the safeguarding concern, we have a 'duty of care' to raise the issue because the needs of the child are paramount. This can be done in several ways: if someone is in imminent danger, then a prayer minister should contact the Police and or Social Services; alternatively, the prayer minister should contact the Ministry Safeguarding leader, so that progression can be implemented. This should occur, even if the perpetrator is in another country. At the end of the prayer, people usually want to take further action, personally - as part of their own healing, they do not want another person to endure what they have experienced. After the prayer, the prayer minister/s should speak with the person, and help them to plan a way of contacting the Police - and to share with them, the perpetrator's name. Someone from the Ministry would need to accompany them to the Police station; this could be a regional coordinator. It is then up to the Police to follow up. It would also be helpful to inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead where the person receiving prayer lives, so that they could offer advice and support.

The prayer minister should also contact a member of the LWHM Safeguarding Team for advice and support. The Diocesan Safeguarding Lead is also there to support individuals. It is also possible to speak to the Duty Social Worker on a 'no-name' basis, in order to seek advice. For further information, refer to the Ministry Code of Conduct Guidelines. If an allegation is made regarding a senior team member, we would contact CSAS, and work with them. We have regular consultation with CSAS.

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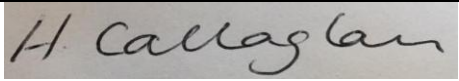
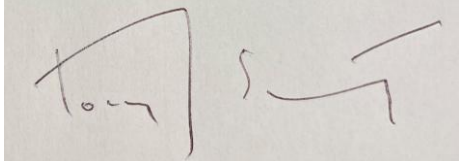
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Our Safeguarding Lead can be contacted by email:

safeguarding@littlewayhealingministries.com - alternatively, please call our information line on 07936 269 143.

Document Approvals:

Name	Capacity	Signature	Date
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