



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Guidelines

Date for review: April 2023

Applicable to: Public

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, Littleway – New Spring Trust have adopted the following policy statement from *A Programme 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 Littleway Foundation Course they are not yet ready to pray the Littleway Healing of Memories prayer with the public. Should they wish to be part of Littleway then they are asked to join a cell group and attend gatherings where further training takes place and they can practise the Littleway prayer with people experienced in Littleway prayer. There will also be further 'prayer development training' week-ends available. With their Cell Group Leader and Regional Co-ordinator the Leadership team will discern if they are ready to offer the Littleway prayer. Part of their ongoing development is a commitment to deepen their spiritual growth and to be living and working within the guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church. After the Foundation Course people are able to come to public events and help as part of the Ministry, but this is on condition of having their DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service, previously CRB) checks or in Scotland their Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checks, for both children and vulnerable adults. They may already have an enhanced DBS for their Parish work but we have been advised by the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (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 Service (DBS) Service: www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record.

This has to be done, even if they already have an enhanced DBS through their Parish.

Once completed the DBS number should be sent to the Littleway Administrator:
administrator@littlewayhealingministries.com

In 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 Littleway Administrator. If unable to attend face-face training, CSAS recommends that they complete the EduCare Online Training for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.

EduCare access should be facilitated through their Diocesan Safeguarding Office. The Littleway Administrator can provide advice if there are any difficulties.

Team members and all those praying are requested to be familiar with their own diocesan safeguarding policies and to download the appropriate documentation, as needed, from the CSAS website: <http://www.csasprocedures.uk>

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 offer a short prayer with the parents' permission. There may be times when parents bring an older child up for short prayer, as they want their child to receive prayer. It is important then to ask the child if they would they like a prayer, and if they are not sure or don't want it, to explain that that is perfectly reasonable and to explain to the parents that at this time their child is not wanting a prayer but that if or when they do they can come back. The child's free will needs to be respected and heard.

There may also be times when parents request the longer Littleway 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. We do not offer the Littleway prayer to those under 18. Short prayer is possible.



Safeguarding adults

Prior to the introduction of the Care Act in 2014, the No Secrets Statutory Guidance which covered adult safeguarding, used a broad definition of a 'vulnerable adult' as a person:

"who is or may be in need of Community Care Services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation".

The Care Act 2014 has superseded this, and s42 now identifies 'an adult at risk.' An adult at risk of abuse or neglect is defined as someone who has needs for care and support, who is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of their care needs - is unable to protect themselves. All partners should be using this definition when raising a concern about abuse/neglect of an adult.

We subscribe to the CSAS guidelines as stated below to:

Work actively and constructively within the framework set out in the Care Act 2014 and Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014, and with associated statutory and good practice guidance to:

- Actively promote the empowerment and well-being of adults throughout the Church;
- Recognise that everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse;
- Recognise that adults have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation;
- Recognise that adults have the right to independence that involves a degree of risk; and
- Act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Health Agencies, Probation Providers and other agencies to safeguard adults and assist in bringing to justice anyone acting in the name of the Church who has committed an offence against an adult.

Again, in Littleway we do not offer Littleway prayer to adults suffering with dementia, learning disabilities, severe mental health difficulties, i.e. psychosis. We may offer a short prayer with them at Public Events if that is what they are wanting or requesting. Again, their family may want them to have a short prayer, but we need to respect their own control of their lives and ask the person themselves if prayer is something they would like.

Code of Confidentiality

People who come to us for prayer should feel that their time with us is marked by respect, trust and confidentiality. Whilst we do not speak of anything that happens in the prayer without the person's permission, there are however exceptions. 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 Littleway prayer both short prayer and the longer Healing of Memories prayer we say:

'We work within the Safeguarding Guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church - what you share with us is treated as 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 would discuss that with your at the end of the prayer and would need to take things further eg, speaking with the diocesan safeguarding officer and possibly the police. We will support you through this time.'



Past Sexual Abuse

All allegations of abuse within the church will be reported to the statutory authorities. This is regardless of whether the abuse is historic or current and whether the perpetrator is believed to be deceased. This also applies to deceased lay people.[1]

Even if the person receiving prayer does not want to pursue the safeguarding concern, we have a duty of care to raise the issue, as the needs of the child are paramount. This can be done in several ways. If someone is in imminent danger, then the Police and or Social Services should be contacted. If unsure then they should contact the Safeguarding Team to discuss. This should also happen if the perpetrator is in another country. At the end of the prayer people usually themselves want to take things further as particularly with their own healing they are not wanting another to experience what they have experienced. We will speak with the person after the prayer and help them make a plan to contact the Police to give the person's name. Someone from the Ministry will need to accompany them to the Police Station. This could be a Regional Co-ordinator. It is then up to the Police to follow up. It is also helpful to inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Office where the person receiving prayer lives as they can also offer advice and support.

Should there be other instances of past emotional physical abuse or domestic violence we would also support the person should they want to take it further.

A member of the Littleway Safeguarding Team can be contacted for advice and support. The Diocesan Safeguarding Office is also there to support people. It is also possible to speak to the Duty Social Worker on a no-named basis to seek advice. The Ministry Code of Conduct Guidelines should also be consulted. If an allegation is made regarding a senior team member then we will contact CSAS and work with them. We have regular consultation with CSAS.

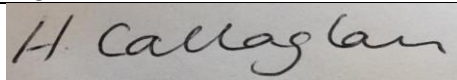
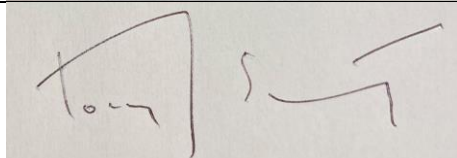
Safeguarding Team:

- Safeguarding Lead: Helen Callaghan
 - 07814673084 callaghanhelen@hotmail.com
- North of England contact: Celia McVey
 - 07709071794 cmcvey63@gmail.com
- South of England contact: Bernadette Bray
 - 07941525702 bernadettebraybb@gmail.com
- Scotland contact: Deacon Tony Schmitz
 - tony.schmitz@gmail.com

Helen Callaghan CEO, Safeguarding Lead.

[1] <https://www.csas.uk.net/procedures-manual/>

Document Approvals:

Name	Capacity	Signature	Date
Helen Callaghan	Trustee, CEO		24-03-2022
Tony Schmitz	Trustee		24-03- 2021