

Parish statement on domestic abuse

Parish of St Matthew with St Paul

Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our publicity –

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised –

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care –

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact Niki Bray (Safeguarding Lead) or Peter Seal (Rector)

It is not the role of the Church, nor anyone employed within the Church, to investigate the issues and incidents – only social care and the police have these statutory powers.

Please follow this process when you become aware of an incident of domestic abuse and violence

See attached flow chart

We follow the Church of England guidance regarding domestic violence

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/4012254/responding-well-to-domestic-abuse-formatted-master-copy-030317.pdf>

CONTACTS

Parish of St Matthew with St Paul

Rector: Canon Peter Seal, 01962 854849

Safeguarding Officer: Niki Bray, 07786 837535

Winchester Diocese

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Jackie Rowlands, 01962 737347

Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator: Siona Jeffrey 01962 737347

Safeguarding concerns Mon- Fri 8am -6pm 01962 737317

Safeguarding concerns Mon-Fri 6pm-8am, weekends, bank holidays 0300 5551373

Hampshire Adult Services – 0300 555 1386

Hampshire Children's Services

Children's Services 0300 555 1384 (out-of-hours 0300 555 1373)

Women's Aid

Provides services for women and children who have been affected by the experience of domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse.

0808 2000 247 www.womensaid.org.uk

Refuge

Refuge is the national charity which provides a wide range of specialist domestic violence services to women and children experiencing domestic violence.

0808 2000 247 www.refuge.org.uk

Rape Crisis

Rape Crisis Centres offer a range of services for women and girls who have been raped or experienced another form of sexual violence.

0808 802 9999 www.rapecrisis.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline

The Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge 0808 2000 247

National Centre for Domestic Violence

The National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) provides a free, fast emergency injunction service to survivors of domestic violence.

24-hour helpline: 0800 970 2070 www.ncdv.org.uk