

Monday 17th February 2020

**TO ALL CLERGY, READERS AND LAY MINISTERS, CHURCH WARDENS,
PCC SECRETARIES, PARISH SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATORS AND
DEANERY ADMINISTRATORS**

A Message from Bishop Paul concerning Past Case Review 2 (PCR2)

Dear Friends,

The House of Bishops wishes to ensure that our churches and church related activities are as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults. Therefore, the Church of England is undertaking a second review of safeguarding files which will be referred to as **PCR2**.

PCR2 aims to identify both good practice and institutional failings regarding how allegations of abuse have been handled in the past. It will also provide recommendations on how our practice and processes can be improved.

*The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham has now commenced the **PCR2** process. The Area Deans have been briefed on this process followed up by a briefing document which has been sent today to all incumbent clergy (or the Area Dean where there is a parish/benefice in vacancy) because all parishes in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham are obliged to submit relevant information for **PCR2**, when requested.*

Why is PCR2 being carried out?

The objectives of **PCR2** are:

- 1) To identify all information held within parishes, cathedrals, dioceses, or other church bodies which may contain allegations of abuse or neglect, where the alleged perpetrator is a clergy person or other church officer, and ensure these cases have been independently reviewed;
- 2) To ensure all allegations of abuse of children, especially those that have been recorded since the original PCR in 2007, have been handled appropriately and proportionately to the level of risk identified and with the paramountcy principle evidenced within decision making;
- 3) To ensure that recorded incidents or allegations of abuse of an adult (including domestic abuse) have been handled appropriately demonstrating the principles of adult safeguarding;
- 4) To ensure that the support needs of known survivors have been considered;
- 5) To ensure that all safeguarding allegations have been referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers and are being/have been responded to in line with current safeguarding practice guidance;

- 6) To ensure that cases meeting the relevant thresholds have been referred to statutory agencies.

If these objectives are met, the Church of England will be adequately able to demonstrate that:

- All known safeguarding cases have been appropriately managed and reported to statutory agencies or the police where appropriate;
- The needs of any known victims have been considered and that sources of support have been identified and offered, where this is appropriate;
- All identified risks have been assessed and mitigated as far as is reasonably possible.

Clearly, as a diocese, we will be aiming to ensure that these objectives are met. To do so, we must undertake this potentially large piece of work together. Whilst the incumbent clergy (or Area Dean if in vacancy) is responsible for providing all necessary paperwork and therefore you are not directly required to submit information, you may well be approached to offer additional support to enable the Incumbent to respond accordingly and in line with the required submission date for all paperwork by 22nd April 2020.

PCR2 is being publicised to allow survivors a chance to participate and you may be approached by someone needing to be signposted to the safeguarding team at Jubilee House. If this happens, please do so but also ensure that the Incumbent or Area Dean (if in vacancy) is made aware of the approach. In addition, if PCR2 raises any particular concerns for you directly, please contact the interim Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Julian Hodgson on safeguarding@southwell.anglican.org

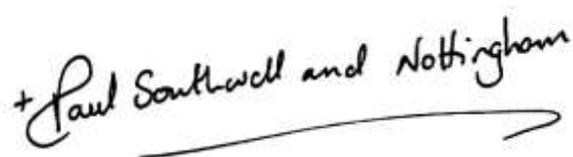
Recognising that those with a lived experience of abuse from within the church may not feel comfortable speaking with someone connected with church, a dedicated telephone helpline has also been set up - **0800 80 20 20** - operated independently from the church, by the NSPCC. Anyone can use the helpline to provide information or to raise concerns regarding abuse within the Church of England; whether they are reporting issues relating to children, adults or seeking to whistle blow about poor safeguarding practice.

Finally, please could I encourage you to hold all incumbents, Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding teams in your prayers at this time, and particularly those individuals affected by previously unknown abuse coming forward.

Should you appreciate further information concerning PCR2, please visit the Diocesan Website or the following links:-

- PCR2 Background and Overview <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/PCR2%20Background%20and%20Overview.pdf>
- PCR2 Protocol and Practice Guidance <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/PCR2%20Protocol%20and%20Practice%20Guidance.pdf>

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Paul Southwell and Nottingham". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right side.

The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, The Rt Revd Paul Williams