

Safeguarding Report St Andrews Church March 2016

This is my first report as safeguarding representative for St Andrew's Church.

When Steve first asked me to be the safeguarding representative, I was both honoured and apprehensive. I knew that this was a big responsibility!

In the beginning...

The first thing was to make sure that St Andrew's was in line with Diocesan policy. This means that we had to look at the administration of safeguarding: ensuring that we had a safeguarding policy, a safeguarding representative, and forms to record and maintain records of volunteers and everything that was needed to ensure that we followed Diocesan policy. I also had to undergo training to ensure that I fully understood safeguarding issues and how to carry out the role.

This was quite a big undertaking as St Andrews did not have a policy, or a very robust administrative process around safeguarding.

Moving forward

One of the first things to do was to put in place a policy. Steve put this to the PCC in May 2015 as almost one of the first things he did. It was agreed to adopt the Diocesan policy, as this is pretty comprehensive.

Next a recording process of volunteers was implemented. This recorded those that had DBS checks and those that needed them. This ensured that volunteers working with children and young people were properly checked.

As the MABs project started, it was even more important to ensure that safeguarding was considered as part of processes for the projects. Working with Barry Easton (Youth and Community Worker) and Jo Griffiths (Families Chaplain), we reviewed forms and developed new forms to support the project. Working together, a volunteer pack was developed. This detailed the importance of safeguarding within St Andrew's, and requested that all Sunday club volunteers and volunteers working with children and young adults undertake training in safeguarding.

Ongoing...

As our ministry with vulnerable people continues to grow, we ensure that the safeguarding processes meet the needs of the projects and keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe.

I am pleased to say that we have not had to deal with any safeguarding issues. It has been a busy year – but in a good way!

Claire Reilly
Safeguarding Officer