

Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

Parish of St Andrew's Totteridge in the Church of England Diocese of St Albans

This Policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council Meeting held on 17th May 2017 - Reviewed March 2025

We are committed to promoting and supporting an environment which:-

- Ensure that all people feel welcomed and safe from abuse
- Protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm
- Recognise equality amongst people and within relationships
- Enable or encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently

We recognise that:-

- All forms of abuse cause damage to the survivor and express and imbalance of power in the relationship
- All survivors (regardless of age, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm and 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 our activities:-

- Valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors or 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 anyone please contact:-

The Safeguarding Officer: Noah Lewis – 07946 787347 / nalewis2023@outlook.com

National Helpline Phone Numbers: Freephone 24hr Nation Domestic Violence Helpline:-

0800 2000 247 (run in partnership with Women's Aid and Refuge)

Male advice and enquiry: 0808 801 0327

Signed:

Vicar

Churchwardens

Safeguarding Co-ordinator