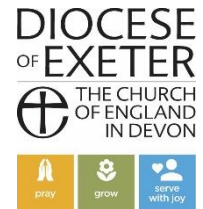


Parish Safeguarding Dashboards

Frequently Asked Questions (v1 30/03/2020)



What is a Parish Safeguarding Dashboard?

In a nutshell, it is an online checklist for parishes to know how they're doing on meeting the Safeguarding requirements set out in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and other House of Bishops policies and practice guidance.

How does it work?

This is explained on this webpage which includes a helpful video with more detail:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/parish-dashboard/>

Why should we sign up to the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard?

It is not mandatory for every parish to use the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, but we strongly recommend parishes to take it up wherever possible as it makes tracking and evidencing your Safeguarding progress much simpler and clearer. It allows you to download an action plan your PCC can use to plan next steps and provides a comprehensive report for the APCM. Feedback from the pilot phase was unanimously positive about the dashboard tool.

Do we have to pay to use the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard?

No. It is completely free to parishes. The Diocese pay the annual subscriptions on your behalf.

How many owners (editors) can we have?

Only one owner (the person responsible for updating the dashboard) is allowed per parish. To register or change an owner, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org). The parish dashboard owner can invite other people to be viewers of their dashboard so others have visibility of progress.

Who should be the owner (editor) for our parish?

The PCC should decide who is best equipped and positioned to populate the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and keep it up to date. The owner should be someone with reasonable IT capabilities and an active email address. While many parishes choose to make their Parish Safeguarding Representative the owner, it does not have to be their responsibility. Some parishes ask their Parish Administrator, PCC Secretary or a Churchwarden to keep it up to date, liaising with the Parish Safeguarding Rep for any updates. Where a Safeguarding Rep is covering multiple parishes, it may be fairer to ask each PCC's Designated Safeguarding Lead to be the dashboard owner, as they should already have a good grasp of where Safeguarding matters are currently positioned with their parish.

Can we have one dashboard for a whole mission community/benefice/team?

At the moment, no, it is a dashboard per parish, as it is the PCC Trustees who have the legal responsibility. This may be an option in the future if your mission community moves to having a Joint Council in line with the updated Church Representation Rules.

Technical FAQs

Do I need a particular type of device, or to install a programme or app to use the dashboard?

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is online and accessed through a website, so any device that has an up-to-date Web browser can be used to view and update the dashboard. There is nothing to install. The owner (editor) and viewers just need to have an email address they can use for registration and logging in.

Entering dates on my device is difficult / How do I enter dates from previous years?

On some devices or browsers, entering dates may not be very intuitive so we have created this 'How To' sheet on entering dates to help you: https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Dashboard_HowTo_Dates.pdf

Dashboard Question FAQs

We're being asked for the date that a policy or plan was approved or last reviewed, but don't know if that has been done or when it was last done – what should we do?

Agree with your PCC to approve or review it at your next meeting, and enter this as a comment in the 'Optional Notes' section until this is completed.

We're not sure what type of Safeguarding Policy we have approved?

If you have adopted the template policy statement provided via the Diocesan website (<https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/PCC-Safeguarding-Policy-template-August-2017.docx>) then you have adopted the 'Promoting a Safer Church' national policy as your own policy, as per the top checkbox in the question responses.

If you have written your own policy locally, you will need to ensure it includes similar statements to the above template that commit the parish to adhering to the national 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy and the House of Bishops' practice guidance, then you can tick the second checkbox that your policy takes these into account.

We're not sure we have a "procedure for dealing with safeguarding allegations or concerns" to approve or review – what should we do?

This was a new requirement from the Parish Safeguarding Handbook that can be found on page 2. In simple terms, this procedure needs to outline how people should respond to a Safeguarding concern in your local church context. To assist with this, we have produced a template to get your parish procedure started: <https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Parish-Responding-to-Safeguarding-Allegations-or-Concerns-Procedure-Template.docx>