

## THE BENEFICE OF COXLEY WITH GODNEY, HENTON, AND WOOKEY

# Responding promptly to every Safeguarding Concern or Allegation

### Concern/allegation

You suspect or witness abuse, or someone discloses information about a safeguarding concern or allegation

#### **Emergency - immediate**

If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires medical attention, call the police and/or social services immediately on 999

#### Non-emergency

Ensure if you can that immediate safety arrangements are in place for the victim(s) with no contact with alleged abuser, and for others potentially vulnerable. Remember to protect yourself from harm too

Record and report all information to the incumbent or the benefice safeguarding officer (unless they are implicated)

Record and discuss with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) within 24 hours.

Await their advice and guidance.

No longer have concerns

Still have concerns about a child or adult

Still have concerns about a church officer

Record and inform incumbent/PSO of no further action/church support offer Agree who will refer to child/adult social care and/or police. Share information and follow advice of child/adult social care and/or police. Keep DSA updated DSA refers to Local Authority Designated Officer and/or police

## Remember

Maintain confidentiality—do not talk to others about the concern or allegation. However, do look after yourself. Debrief with your incumbent or your benefice safeguarding officer and ask for further support if you need it.

Follow the advice of the Local Authority, police, and your diocesan and benefice advisers and co-operate fully with any investigation.