

**SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN
AND
VULNERABLE ADULTS**

The Trustees of Mothers' Union, Diocese of Oxford has agreed to accept the Diocese of Oxford's 'Safeguarding Handbook for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults'.

Hard copies are held by:-

- Mothers' Union Members Secretary at the Mothers' Union Diocesan Office, Church Mission Society · Watlington Road · Oxford, Oxfordshire OX4 6BZ
- The Diocesan President
- The Safeguarding Officer (formerly known as Child Protection Officer)

Also can be viewed on Diocese of Oxford website www.oxford.anglican.org

For Branch Leaders

Activities where children are present must always be thought about carefully to ensure the safety of children at all times
A suitable 'check list' should be draw up and adhered to.

Consider the following:-

Will a parent or carer be present? – If this is the case NO further action is needed apart from ensuring that the parents or carers are aware they are responsible for their child.

If the above is not the case then it is essential that those responsible are aware and adhere to the Diocese of Oxford Safeguarding measures. This will probably require DBS checks for those involved. (Information from the Mothers' Union Safeguarding Officer.)

Venues should be checked against Oxford Mothers' Union Health and Safety guide lines. **It is the responsibility of the person organising the event to ensure this is carried out.**

Branch Leaders should ensure that the lines of responsibility are put into writing so no mistakes can occur.

What do we do if we have a concern?

We all hope that the children and young people we meet and support through Mothers' Union are safe and happy and that they benefit from the programs we are involved in through our branch work and in our churches. Most of the time this is true but sometimes we may have a concern and then it is good to know what to do.

Every local authority has a Safeguarding Children Board with contact information on how to raise a concern with them. It is part of your duty to do so, either directly ourselves or through the designated safeguarding officer for your church.

Make sure you know who to speak to and how to contact them. All local authorities have that information on their websites and your church should publicise the contact details of their designated officer on their noticeboards.

Information about reporting Safeguarding concerns, including contact details, can be found on the Oxford Diocesan website at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/safeguarding/>

For urgent and confidential safeguarding matters contact

Lisa Wilkins, Interim Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser & Safeguarding Casework Officer - lisa.wilkins@oxford.anglican.org or 01865 208295

Sophie Harney, Safeguarding Casework Officer – sophie.harney@oxford.anglican.org or 01865 208295

In a real emergency, **you must dial 999 and call the police.**

If you are worried about a child and unsure whether your concern constitutes abuse and should be taken further, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding advisor, details above, or the NSPCC has a helpline to ask:

email: help@nspcc.org.uk or tel:0808 800 5000

Sadly, abuse is not only confined to children and young people, vulnerable adults can also be victims. Local authorities have people who deal with these cases too.

And don't forget that if you or your team are running regular activities for children and young people where parents or guardians are not present, then the person in charge must have a current DBS check which can be obtained either through your church safeguarding officer or through Mothers' Union. It is recommended that DBS checks are renewed every 5 years, if the person is in the same role, and that those in receipt of a DBS



check are asked to consider registering for the Update Service which makes rechecking much more straightforward. All the details are in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook.

The Oxford Diocese also offers general Safeguarding training, handbooks and model policies. The training is in several parts depending upon the work to be undertaken and the office which the person holds. A Refresher course is also available to be undertaken every 3 years.

MU Safeguarding May 2020

Revd. Lady Brown, MU Diocesan Safeguarding Officer
Email: safeguarding@muoxford.org.uk Mob: 07884 493923