

Statement

The above title encompasses those who see themselves as victims, survivors, thrivers, and those who do not wish to identify with any particular label.

This protocol covers those who have or are experiencing any type of abuse within the context of the Church of England. Those who have experienced trauma outside of the church will be signposted to other services, but the principles for support and contact remain applicable to all.

This protocol has been informed by:

- Responding well to those who have been sexually abused, 2017
- Responding well to domestic abuse, 2017
- Promoting a safer church, 2017
- Responding well to victims and survivors of abuse, 2021
- Recent Lessons Learned Review Recommendations, 2022
- Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham PCR2 Recommendations, 2022
- IICSA report 2020

This protocol covers all those working in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham and the Cathedral Church of Southwell Minster.

Principles

- The voice of those who have 'lived experience of trauma' will be heard and valued.
- All allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and without judgment.
- Those who have lived experience of trauma will be kept informed where we are legally able to do so.
- Those who have lived experience of trauma will be empowered to participate in the process of reporting and how/when information is provided for them.
- The diocese will attempt to accommodate any preference requested for male or female workers, where resources allow.
- The DST will ensure that the voice of those who have lived experience of trauma is accurately reflected at any safeguarding meetings; including the use of impact statements and using co-working arrangements.

Process

- All safeguarding information relating to abuse within the church must be shared with the diocesan safeguarding team DST (Diocese Safeguarding Team).
- Anyone referred to the DST relating to abuse experienced within the church will be offered a resource pack from the safeguarding team.
- Those who have lived experience of trauma relating to sexual abuse [current or non-current] will be referred to the independent sexual violence advocates.

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Survivor Engagement Protocol Statement

- Those who have lived experience of trauma relating to domestic abuse will be referred to an independent domestic violence advocate.
- Where appropriate, a referral to statutory organisations will be made to ensure the safety and well-being of those involved, dependent on the household structure. This may include an assessment of those who may pose a risk to others.
- The support package offered will be informed by NICE guidance and tailored to individual need. Options will be offered wherever possible.
- Support packages will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they continue to provide appropriate support.
- Where there is disagreement about the level or nature of the support identified this will be managed through the complaint process.
- At the completion of the reporting process, feedback from the person who has lived experience of trauma will be sought.

Information to be offered

The pack provided to those referred to the DST will include:

- Local resources available from the church.
- Local resources provided by outside agencies.
- National helplines, information, and contact details.
- Copy of the protocol and relevant national church policy and procedures.
- Feedback form and/or information on how to submit electronically.
- Addiction resources that may be helpful to those who have lived experience of trauma.
- Details of how to access additional resources on the diocesan website.
- Information about opportunities for redress.
- Information about pastoral support.
- Letter of Diocesan Bishop.
- Method by which your views can contribute to further improve national or local processes.

Version Control

V2 Jul 2022

Review Schedule Jul 2025