



Parish of Good Shepherd & St. Peter, Lee

Policy for responding to domestic abuse

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 9.06.21. This policy is underpinned by 'A Safe Church' - a Diocesan manual containing all the policies, procedures and guidelines pertaining to safeguarding. It can be accessed here:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently, and in a timely manner.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or 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 all our activities –
valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and 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.

For full description of the different types of abuse, and their signs and symptoms, please see:
<http://bit.ly/CoETypesOfAbuse>

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact:

Parish Safeguarding Officers:	Laurie Stuart	020 88575185 / 07947 440183
	Catrin Cox	020 88577369
Vicar:	Bridget Shepherd	020 83182363