

## ELY DIOCESAN SYNOD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ely Diocesan Synod held the Hayward Theatre, King's Ely on 14 October 2023 starting at 9.30am

The meeting opened with worship led by the Archdeacon of Cambridge followed by the commissioning of the following Bishop's Specialist Advisers: Revd Fiona Brampton (World Mission), Revd Sue Butler (Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Community), Revd Ruth Clay (Urban Estates)

*Revd Canon Sarah Gower, Chair of the House of Clergy, in the Chair*

### **Promulgation of Amending Canon 42:**

"I give notice that, at its July 2023 group of sessions, the General Synod resolved that Amending Canon No. 42 be made, promulgated and executed.

"Amending Canon No. 42 amends Canon C 30 by replacing the requirement for the bishop of each diocese to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) with a requirement for the bishop to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) with responsibility in the diocese, independent of the bishop, for professional leadership on and management of safeguarding matters. The Canon also provides for the professional supervision of DSOs and for the quality assurance of their work by the National Safeguarding Team. The changes will come into force diocese by diocese upon certification by the Archbishops' Council."

**1. Apologies for Absence received**                      House of Clergy 21                      House of Laity 19  
Apologies for absence were also received from the Bishop of Huntingdon and the Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel, Mr Jon Chapman.

**2. The amended Minutes** of Diocesan Synod held on 11 March 2023, plus the requested appendix, were signed, together with the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2023. There were no **Matters Arising**.

### **Question submitted to Diocesan Synod 14 October 2023 under Standing Order 86 by Christopher Townsend, Cambridge North Deanery:**

*In June this year, Cambridge North Deanery Synod passed the following motions:*

"1) *We, the members of the Deanery Synod, are united in expressing our deep concerns regarding the impact of recent proposals from the Bishops regarding Prayers of Love and Faith. In the spirit of the Pastoral Principles, we warmly affirm the importance of pastoral care for all members of our congregations, we recognise the importance of speaking into issues of gender, sexuality and identity, which are to many the most pressing pastoral and theological issues of our time, and we lament the way that some members of the LGBTQ+ community have been treated in the Church.*

*However, we are also united in our view that the proposals as they stand create significant difficulties for the unity and mission of the Church of England, including our Deanery. We acknowledge that there are differing views on the proposals, and especially that a number of us cannot in good conscience 'walk together' on this issue. We understand that many find the prospect of 'pastoral reassurance' inadequate to meet the profound ecclesiological and moral differences that have been exposed.*

*We are anxious that the Bishop of Ely (and his successor), the Bishop of Huntingdon, the Bishop's staff, the Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod should fully engage with this reality, and work urgently to address the full impact of these proposals for the life of the Church.*

- 2) *This Deanery*
  - a) *Regrets the motion passed at General Synod on Living in Love and Faith and would urge the Bishops and General Synod to withdraw their support for the proposed Prayers of Love and Faith and reconsider.*
  - c) *Urges that preparations be made for a new structural settlement that accepts that we cannot simply ‘walk together’ on this matter.\**

*\* The motion at paragraph 2(b) which expressed support for the motion passed at General Synod on Living in Love and Faith was defeated.*

*Notwithstanding that about one-third of those present voted against (or in a few cases abstained from voting on) the motions at paragraph 2 a) and c), the motion at paragraph 1 was passed with a very high degree of support indeed (38 votes in favour to 5 votes against with 1 abstention).*

*What steps have the acting Bishop of Ely and Bishop’s Council taken so far, and what steps do the acting Bishop of Ely and Bishop’s Council plan to take, to “engage with this reality, and work urgently to address the full impact of these proposals for the life of the Church” in the Diocese of Ely given the impossibility on grounds of conscience for a significant number of people, clergy and laity, to ‘walk together’ on this issue?*

**The following response from the Bishop of Huntingdon was read out on her behalf by the Chair:**

*The Bishop’s Staff and Bishop’s Council are listening carefully to the various arguments made and the question before us adds to this.*

*Please note that it is as yet quite unclear and undecided, what shape the ‘pastoral reassurance’ will take.*

*It will certainly not be decided by the Diocese of Ely but this Diocese will be directed by the House of Bishops and the General Synod.*

*The Bishop’s Staff in Ely Diocese are unanimous in respecting and defending freedom of conscience in the contended issues at hand.*

*However, we know we are far from unanimity in the diocese with a wide spectrum of views held concerning the LLF proposals. Each of us have to accept this reality.*

*There is furthermore no unanimity on how we best deal with this fact of widely different views, as the motion from Cambridge North Deanery demonstrates.*

*I welcome the mention of the Pastoral Principles as we live in this difficult situation while still awaiting a firming up of the package of LLF proposals.*

Mr Townsend raised the following supplementary question:

*In the overall and wider Deanery Development Planning Process, to what extent, and how, have the issues raised by Living in Love and Faith, specifically issues with respect to the degree to which clergy, PCC members and congregations and different churches will find themselves able to ‘walk together’ or not, been taken into account?*

The Chair stated that Mr Townsend would receive an answer within the next 14 days due to the absence of the Bishop of Huntingdon

The **Presidential Address** from the Bishop of Huntingdon was made in the form of a video presentation

**3. Safeguarding Update:** Ms Rebecca Boswell, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, presented her update from the Safeguarding Team advising that there will be job role name changes due to central church requirements. The Safeguarding Advisers will be known as Officers, and the current Safeguarding Officer will become Diocesan Safeguarding Training and Parish Support Coordinator.

There are 186 referrals at the year to date, with 45 open concerns. There are 21 Church Safety Plans (formerly Safeguarding Agreements) in place which encompass less than five allegations against Church officers. 326 have undertaken face-to-face Leadership Trainings - there has been a new module in place since September which is receiving positive feedback. 1200 DBS checks have been carried out - the digital DBS checks can be carried out very swiftly and are now being offered

across the Diocese. 77% of parishes have now signed up for the Parish Dashboard (a total of 248). Five Safeguarding Standards have been issued in draft on which the Diocese's safeguarding strategy is devised. No new information is included, they are more for clarification. A country wide safeguarding audit commences in late 2024, with Ely's audit, at present, taking place late in the process (likely February 2026).

Thanks were passed to Ms Boswell and her team

**4. Bishop's Council meeting 28 September 2023:** an oral report from the September meeting was given by the Diocesan Secretary. Synod was informed that members of Bishop's Council had unanimously approved the 2024 budget and commended it to Synod. Bishop's Council had also approved unanimously to commit £60,000 from the New Churches Fund for the purposes of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation at Northstowe. There had been a presentation by the Archdeacons regarding Deanery Development Planning.

**5. Business of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance:** Canon Tim Walters, Chair of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, spoke to the Budget 2024 paper notifying members of Synod of the increases in salary paybill and houses maintenance costs. He advised Synod of the planned 4% increase in Ministry Share (which has been set to reflect the recommended increase in clergy stipends by 5% - the additional 1% will be taken from investment income) and committed to reduce the anticipated £200,000 deficit to a break-even level for 2025 by improving cost efficiency, looking to reduce the cost base by at least £120,000 through 2024. He is reviewing figure across all departments so as not to deliver further deficit budgets in the near future. The free reserves policy is currently set at a figure where the Diocese could operate for three months without other income. On the recommendation of the auditors, haysmacintyre, this is being reviewed. Other listed Diocesan funds are held for specific purposes and may not be used for purposes outside their stated and specific spheres of activity.

He emphasised that there would be no reduction in the agreed clergy cap of 104

Part funding (50%) has been confirmed towards the agreed post of the Deputy Director of Strategy from the national church, and further bids for funds from the SMMIB are to be prepared to support Children and Youth Workers, lay training and ministry in new developments.

Income from the solar farm at Rat Hall, Balsham will eventually provide significant revenue in the future over 30 years, although the project is still in the development stages and the housing development at the Lattenburys (early planning stage) may provide future income to cover future stipends.

Motion: "This house proposes the formal acceptance of the 2024 Budget"

Proposed: Canon Tim Walters  
One abstention  
The motion was carried

Seconded: Canon Janet Perrett

Motion: "This house proposes the formal acceptance of the 2024 Ministry Share figures"

Proposed: Canon Tim Walters  
Three votes against the motion; four abstentions  
The motion was carried

Seconded: Revd Canon Nick Moir

**Project Lancaster:** Canon Tim Walters as Chair of the Relocation Board advised that excellent progress is being made in the construction of the new Diocesan offices and training centre. Information about the build can be seen on the Diocesan website (<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/governance/board-of-finance/bishop-woodford-house/>) Project completion will be followed by fitting out, with a potential occupation date of mid-late April 2024.

6. Presentation by the Diocesan Environmental Task Group by Geoffrey Hunter, Head of Church Building and Pastoral Department. This was followed by table discussion and reports back to the plenary session.

Members of Diocesan Synod endorsed the Diocese's commitment to Net Zero Carbon (with one abstention)

7. **Ely Diocese Board of Patronage (EDBOP)**. Synod received papers relating to the co-option of representatives to EDBOP until the forthcoming elections take place at the end of 2024 following the Diocesan Synod elections in summer 2024. The appointment of 3 members of the clergy and 5 lay representatives was unanimously agreed.

8. **Vacancy in See:** The Very Revd Mark Bonney, Dean of Ely and Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee gave a short update on the progress of the Vacancy in See Committee's work. A Statement of Needs is being prepared (<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/leadership/the-bishop-of-ely/appointment-of-a-new-diocesan-bishop/statement-of-needs>), a public meeting is taking place on 30 October over Zoom, the final meeting of the Vacancy in See Committee is being held on 16 November, at which there will be a formal election of six representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission. It was thought that the new Bishop would be announced in approximately September 2024 with their enthronement to follow as appropriate.

9. **Diocesan Synod elections:** the proposal for numbers to be elected from Deaneries to Diocesan Synod was presented.

Synod agreed the numbers for election from each Deanery in the Diocese of Ely for the 2024 Diocesan Synod elections by a majority (2 abstentions)

The meeting closed with prayer at 12.50pm

## **APPENDIX to Diocesan Synod minutes – 14 June 2023**

### **Annual Report 2022: Safeguarding Team**

The Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Team seeks to contribute to 'People Fully Alive: Ely 2025' in its strategic aims of developing healthy churches and serving the community. We aspire to strengthen and integrate good safeguarding practice within the culture of all those working, volunteering or worshipping across the Diocese.

## Safeguarding Team

Rebecca Boswell - Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA)  
Sharon Gage - Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor  
(ADSA) Sarah King - Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO)  
Kelly Nott - Safeguarding Training Administrator  
Lisa Pearson - Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor  
(ADSA) Jackie Williamson - Safeguarding Administrative  
Support

Over 2022, as COVID restrictions decreased, there has been more opportunity to work at the Diocesan Office where the Safeguarding Team has a dedicated office space. The Team's members now work in a hybrid capacity between home and office-based working.

## Policy and Practice Guidance

All safeguarding work within the Diocese is undertaken within the context of Statutory and House of Bishop's Policy and Practice Guidance. The following Practice Guidance Documents have been published during the last 12 months:

*Ukrainian Refugees (15.04.22)*

It is noted that all current safeguarding Guidance is issued by the House of Bishops under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Section 5 requires all authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and parochial church councils to have "due regard" to Safeguarding Guidance issued by the House of Bishops. A duty to have "due regard" to Guidance means that the person under the duty is not free to disregard it but is

required to follow it unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so. 'Cogent' for this purpose means clear, logical and convincing. Failure by a member of the clergy to have "due regard" to House of Bishops' Safeguarding Guidance is an act or omission which may constitute misconduct under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003. Failure by a Reader or lay worker to have due regard to House of Bishops' Safeguarding

Guidance would be grounds for the revocation of that Reader's or lay worker's licence by the Bishop, and failure by a churchwarden or parochial church council could result in an investigation being carried out by the Charity Commission and the churchwarden or PCC members being disqualified as charity trustees.

The Safeguarding Code of Practice Measure (Factsheet Appendix A) came into force in March 2022, it

replaces and strengthens the duty to have ‘due regard’ to House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Guidance with a duty to comply with the requirements in a new safeguarding code of practice (the Code); and expands the list of

“relevant persons”, being those who must comply with the new Code’s requirements. Each piece of House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Guidance that was in place on 1 March 2022 remains in place with a duty to have ‘due regard’ until that guidance is replaced by Safeguarding Code of Practice. Safeguarding Referrals

The Safeguarding Advisors provide advice, guidance, and leadership whenever concerns arise about the possible abuse of a child or adult at risk, in relation to allegations against church officers and where there are concerns in relation to adults posing a risk within congregations. Referrals include but are not limited to: disclosures from survivors of abuse (both current and non-current), allegations against an identified person, issues concerning a person who has been convicted of offences against children, safeguarding and welfare concerns raised by or about a member of a congregation, conduct issues relating to a member of the clergy, laity or volunteer, information arising from DBS applications, and so on.

Year	Number of referrals
2016	109
2017	131
2018	158
2019	188
2020	177
2021	215
2022	248

There were 248 referrals in 2022, an increase of 15% on the previous year.

## Risk Assessments and Safeguarding Agreements

The church welcomes all, including those individuals who pose a potential risk to other people. Central to all safeguarding work are the holistic assessment of risk and the development of effective strategies to manage any identified risk. These are often complex, involving liaison with partner agencies in the community, such as probation and police.

At the end of 2022 there were 21 Safeguarding Agreements in place across the Diocese. The subject of the Agreement participates in this process and the Agreements are regularly reviewed and monitored. Where statutory agencies are involved, they participate in this process. The purpose of such Agreements is to protect all within the church community, including the subject. All Safeguarding Agreements are now informed by the Church of England Standard Risk Analysis and Assessment Template (STRAAT) and all new cases are now assessed using this template.

In 2022 there were 5 new STRAAT assessments completed, although one of these is now closed as a result of no further action being taken by the police. Of the 21 Safeguarding Agreements currently in place across the Diocese, 11 of them are subject to the previous Risk Management Plans and 10 have been risk assessed using the 2019 National STRAAT model. All of the Safeguarding Agreements were reviewed on a regular basis during 2022. We are currently waiting for the new Practice Guidance framework to be published in 2023, which will provide updated guidance on the risk assessment process, including a new risk assessment template.

## Safer Recruitment and People Management

All church officers are required to be recruited in accordance with the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance (2021). The updated guidance introduced changes, including an increased focus on post-appointment support and management for staff and volunteers. This guidance also changed the requirement for DBS renewals from 5 to 3 yearly.

During 2022, 2105 DBS checks were undertaken across the Diocese, in comparison with 2021 where there were 1379. The significant increase is attributable to the change in renewal period and parishes re-opening activities following the effects of the pandemic. The ability to undertake virtual ID checks which was made available during the pandemic was withdrawn during 2022, placing a greater burden on the safeguarding team and Parish Safeguarding Officer's undertaking these checks where ID documents had to be viewed directly.

Year	DBS Disclosures
2016	999
2017	1192
2018	1692
2019	1525
2020	1082
2021	1379
2022	2105

The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer manages all the DBS accounts in parishes across the Diocese. Where safeguarding information is disclosed on a DBS certificate or Confidential Declaration, this must be assessed by the Safeguarding Team who will make a recommendation regarding the individual's appointment.

## Safeguarding Training

The safeguarding training modules which apply mainly to employees and volunteers in our parishes are: *Basic Awareness and Foundations, Safer Recruitment and People Management and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse* all of which are available online via the Church of England Training Portal. The national Safer Recruitment and Domestic Abuse training moved to online only training on the Portal during 2022, those modules having previously been delivered by the Safeguarding Team.

The Safeguarding Team continue to deliver the national *Leadership and Parish Safeguarding Officers Induction* training. Virtual safeguarding training via Zoom implemented during the pandemic has continued with in-person training re-starting from September 2022. Many participants feedback that they appreciate the convenience of accessing the training from home while others have expressed a preference for face-to-face training. The Safeguarding Team will continue to deliver both virtual and face-to-face training over 2023. However, the fact that fewer numbers of people can be trained per virtual course has increased the workload of the team.

Some people who have been personally affected by safeguarding issues have reflected that they have found attending safeguarding training problematic and distressing and, in those cases we are aware of, additional supports have been put in place to enable the person to access the training and in circumstances where training with support has not been possible, a pass has been issued for the training module.

Ely Safeguarding Team also deliver local bespoke training, briefing and workshops including Churchwardens Safeguarding Briefings and DBS Workshops.

<b>Module</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Basic Awareness</b>	121	1507
<b>Foundation (online)</b>	731	1057
<b>Leadership</b>	344	386
<b>Safer Recruitment</b>	282	229
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	268	1111
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer Induction</b>	20	20

## Ely Cathedral

There is a Service Level Agreement between the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Chapter of Ely Cathedral agreeing terms of the provision of safeguarding advice and support to the Cathedral by the Ely Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Lisa Pearson works for the Cathedral one day per week as Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor.

## National Casework Management System

The Diocese of Ely was part of the planning and development group for the adoption of a casework management system of the Church of England and one of the first cohort of Dioceses along with Ely Cathedral to adopt the new National Casework Management System and our instance ‘went live’ in July 2022. An immense amount of work was undertaken to digitise all existing paper safeguarding records and files and migrate that information onto the new system. The system has enabled more effective record keeping and management oversight in relation to safeguarding cases across the Diocese.

## Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP)

Ely DSAP has strong multi-agency and inter-departmental representation which allows robust discussion on safeguarding issues, drawing on a wide range of professional experience and expertise. It is also a supportive group, offering advice, guidance and quality assurance on policy and practice matters. Ely Safeguarding Team is very grateful for all the contributions to its work made by diocesan and partner-agency members of the DSAP.



## Past Cases Review

The National Past Cases Review Overview Report was published in October 2022 and The Diocese of Ely published its Executive Summary at the same time.

Local recommendations identified from the Diocesan Report were addressed with an Action Plan overseen by a subgroup of the DSAP. In particular, it was identified that further quality assurance would be of benefit to inform the development of the support and care offered to victims and survivors of abuse across the Diocese.

There are twenty-six recommendations arising from the National Overview Report, the majority of which are relevant to national safeguarding team workstreams within the Church of England. Where recommendations are relevant locally these will be incorporated into the next Strategic Safeguarding Plan 2023-26.

## Survivor Care Review

The Diocese of Ely is keen to demonstrate continuous improvement and development in its safeguarding measures and processes, and, through the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP), has undertaken an independent review of the identification and support afforded to victims and survivors.

An independent reviewer, thirtyone:eight, was commissioned in March 2022 to undertake this review. Throughout the process thirtyone:eight were particularly interested in speaking to those who have experienced survivor care through the Diocese of Ely to inform the Review.

The Diocese of Ely welcomed the findings of the Review, which identified Strengths, Aspirations, Challenges and Areas of Development. The Areas of Development identified a number of **recommendations** that will further improve upon the strong foundations of effective safeguarding processes that are already in place across the Diocese.

## Support to Parishes

The Safeguarding Team continues to provide advice and support to parishes in relation to safeguarding concerns, safer recruitment, good practice, and training. We have had four virtual Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) meetings over the year. Our PSOs have largely welcomed the convenience of a virtual meeting and this has been reflected in high levels of attendance at these events. Ely Safeguarding Team note our appreciation for the vital contribution to safeguarding work by all PSOs.

The Safeguarding Team works with Parishes to support their compliance with House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Parishes who for a range of reasons are at risk of not having 'due regard' are offered Focussed Support. This process brings together the Safeguarding Team and Parish in a coordinated response to help parishes overcome their difficulties. Several parishes have been supported during 2022.

The Safeguarding Dashboard software is available free of charge to all parishes. Across the Diocese of Ely 74% of parishes are currently registered with the Dashboard in comparison with 60% at the end of 2021 and we continue to advocate that all parishes register for a Dashboard.

The developers of Safeguarding Dashboards have been working on a new set of tools to help parishes with safer recruitment and people management.

Safeguarding Hubs are being launched in four stages:

- Stage 1 - DBS and training records
- Stage 2 - Role descriptions
- Stage 3 - Safer recruitment
- Stage 4 - People management

The Diocese of Ely was one of the two Dioceses to launch the Safeguarding Hubs in December 2022.

## Priority areas

During 2023 the Safeguarding Team are keenly anticipating the publication of the final version of the National Church of England Safeguarding Standards and Quality Assurance Framework, as this document will inform the next Strategic Safeguarding Plan. It is also understood that planning is underway nationally for a further round of Safeguarding Audits of all Dioceses and reviewing those National Safeguarding Standards will form the basis of those audits in each Diocese.

The Safeguarding Team will continue to support parishes in accordance with House of Bishop's existing Safeguarding Practice Guidance including the implementation of new Safeguarding Code of Practice Guidance as it is published.

Rebecca Boswell

March 2023

## **Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021**

### **Implementation fact sheet**

#### **1. What are the changes to the law made by the Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021?**

The Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021 (the **2021 Measure**)<sup>1</sup>:

- (a) replaces and strengthens the duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance with a duty to comply with the requirements in a new safeguarding code of practice (the **Code**); and
- (b) expands the list of "relevant persons", being those who must comply with the new Code's requirements.

The Code will be a user manual for those with safeguarding responsibilities in the Church, which sets out "requirements" which must be complied with by any relevant person that requirement applies to. The Code will also include guidance to explain how to comply with the requirements. The Code will make it clear what is a requirement and what is guidance.

#### **2. Why have these changes been made?**

The duty to have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance was criticised by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (**IICSA**) for lacking clarity and not being generally understood. Amending this was one of the recommendations (no.2) in [IICSA's 2019 report](#) which were all welcomed by the Archbishops' Council and endorsed by the General Synod.

#### **3. Who is a "relevant person" under the 2021 Measure?**

The 2021 Measure extends the list of "relevant persons", being those who must comply with the Code from the list of those who had to have due regard to House of Bishops' Safeguarding Guidance in s.5 of the Safeguarding Measure 2016.

The "relevant persons" under the 2021 Measure are:

- (a) a clerk in Holy Orders who is authorised to officiate in accordance with the Canons;
- (b) an archbishop;
- (c) a diocesan, suffragan or assistant bishop;
- (d) an archdeacon;
- (e) a person who is licensed to exercise the office of reader or serve as a lay worker;
- (f) a churchwarden;
- (g) a parochial church council;
- (h) the Chapter of a cathedral;
- (i) the Diocesan Board of Education for a diocese;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/2021/3/contents/enacted>

- (j) the Diocesan Board of Finance for a diocese;
- (k) any other diocesan body as defined by section 19(1) of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007;
- (l) a body established to carry out a mission initiative as defined by section 80(1) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011;
- (m) a person who is an officer or member of staff of the Archbishops' Council, or who provide services to the Archbishops' Council, and whose work to any extent relates to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults;
- (n) a person who works (on any basis) in a diocese or parish, or at a cathedral or for the purposes of a mission initiative, and whose work to any extent relates to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

#### 4. When will these changes come into force?

The Safeguarding Measure 2021 will come into force on 1 March 2022<sup>2</sup>.

#### 5. What is the status of the existing safeguarding guidance?

Each piece of House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance that is in place on 1 March 2022 remains in place until that guidance is replaced by a Code of Practice. In order for any part of the Code to be adopted, it must first undergo the consultation and approval processes set out in the 2021 Measure.

However, all "relevant persons" on the expanded list in the 2021 Measure will be required to have due regard to existing House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance from 1 March 2022.

If a "relevant person" does not have due regard to any House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance which continues in operation, it will be misconduct for the purposes of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003.

#### 6. Where can I find the House of Bishops' safeguarding Guidance and the Code of Practice?

All of the existing House of Bishops' Safeguarding Guidance is currently available from the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Guidance page. [Policy and practice guidance | The Church of England](#)

A new e-manual is being created which will, in due course, have the new Code and any Guidance in force uploaded onto it. [Safeguarding e-manual | The Church of England](#)

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<sup>2</sup> [The Safeguarding \(Code of Practice\) Measure 2021 \(Commencement and Transitional Provision\) Order 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#).