

Diocese of Ely – Review on responding to and supporting victims and survivors

Terms of Reference

Background

It is a priority for the Church of England to provide care and support to those affected by abuse in all its forms.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recognised in the report of October 2020 the importance of responding appropriately to victims and survivors

‘The Church has failed to respond consistently to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse with sympathy and compassion, accompanied by practical and appropriate support. This has often added to the trauma already suffered by those who were abused by individuals associated with the Church’¹

Between November 2018 and 12 May 2021, the Diocese of Ely and Ely Cathedral undertook the Past Case Review. The National Protocol and Practice Guidance² for this process also recognised the need to put survivors and victims at the centre of the process.

Having completed the PCR, a sub-group of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) audited the files where it was indicated that further action was required. This group included a victim/survivor advocate to represent their voice.

The Diocese is keen to demonstrate continuous improvement and development and has, through the DSAP, decided to undertake a review of the identification and support afforded to victims and survivors.

This document identifies the terms of reference for this review.

These terms of reference have been based on the Church of England Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse Practice Guidance 2021 (Implementation date 04.04.2022). The areas of focus will be reviewed in accordance with the Past Cases Review Survivor Care Strategy 2019.

Definitions

- **Victim** refers to someone whose experience of abuse is current or recent at the point they disclose.
- **Survivor** refers to someone whose experience of abuse is non-recent – this may have been disclosed or undisclosed until the time they talk to someone in the Church.

Areas of Focus

¹ IICSA Anglican Church Investigation Report 2020 -

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/publications/investigation/anglican-church/executive-summary>

² Protocol and Practice Guidance PCR2, 2019 - <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/PCR2%20Protocol%20and%20Practice%20Guidance.pdf>

- Can the Diocese demonstrate a safe and conducive environment and culture for safeguarding disclosures to be made?
- Can the Diocese demonstrate that the policies, processes, training and experience is in place to respond appropriately to safeguarding disclosures and to provide the necessary support?
- Is the Diocese able to connect victims and survivors to support services?
- Is the Diocese able to respond to and support Church based abuse?
- Make recommendations in order to support the implementation of the Practice Guidance: Responding Well to Survivors and Victims of Abuse (2021) in the Diocese of Ely.

Methodology

To address the areas of focus by undertaking:-

- Engagement with victims and survivors according to the Past Cases Review Survivor Care Strategy 2019
- Review of Policies and procedures
- Review of training
- Relevant staff interviews
- Review of relevant cases
- Review of awareness raising material