

Higham with Merston Parochial Church Council

Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse

Based on the House of Bishops' "Responding Well to Domestic Abuse 2017" Policy and Practice Guidance



Appendix 5: Parish statement on domestic abuse

Parish of Higham with Merston

Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

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.

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 –

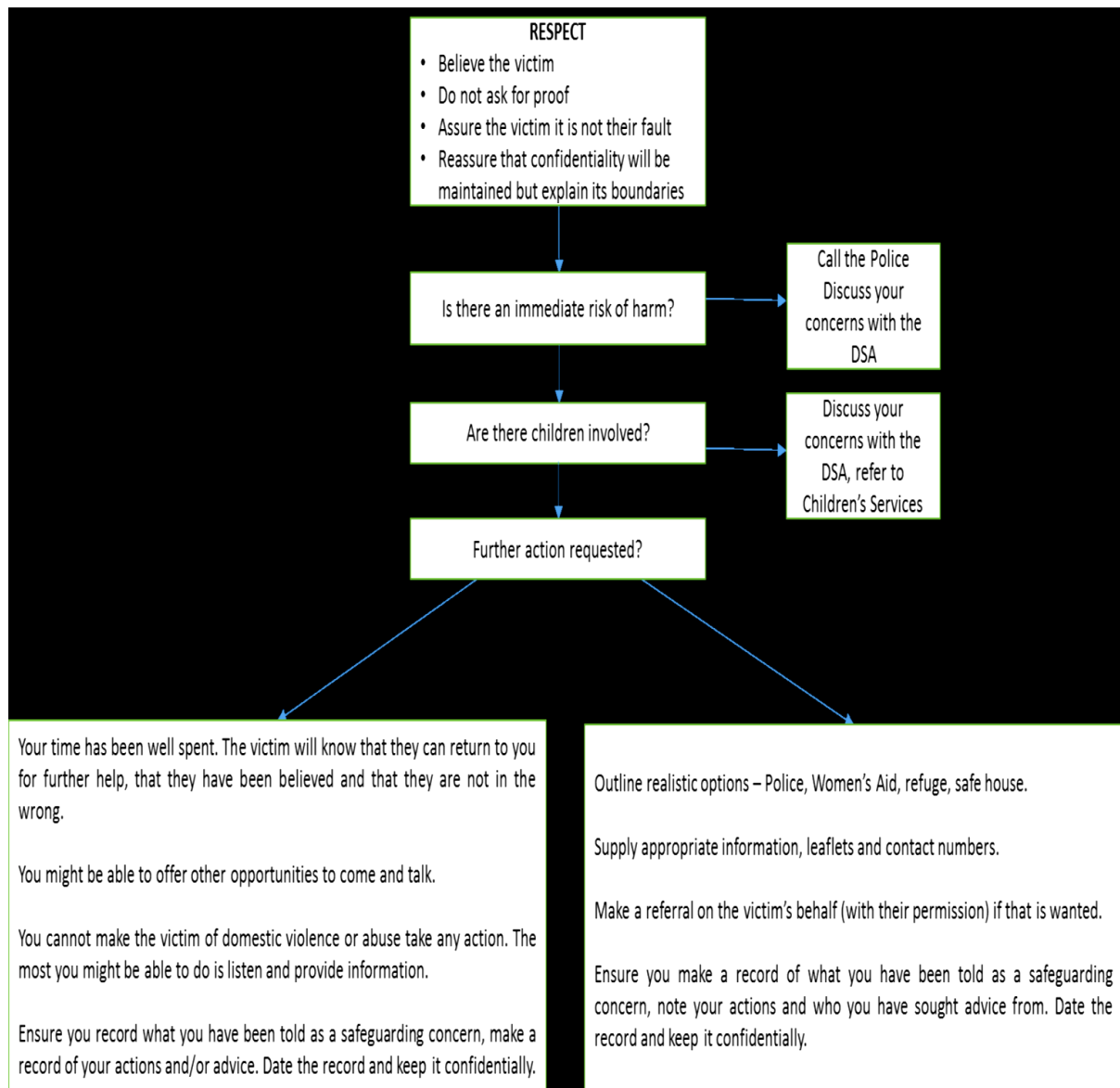
- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact

Rev. Canon J F Southward
01634 717360
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor
01634 560000

It is not the role of the Church, nor anyone employed within the Church, to investigate the issues and incidents – only social care and the police have these statutory powers.

Please follow this process when you become aware of an incident of domestic abuse and violence.



NB:

Where there are children, domestic abuse automatically becomes a child protection issue and the statutory agencies will be informed, whether or not the child has witnessed the abuse.

Support cannot be provided to the victim and perpetrator by the same person and/or group.

Details- Social Services Contact

Bexley - 020 8303 7777

Barnehurst, Blendon, Crayford, Erith

Northumberland Heath, Sidcup, Falconwood,

Welling, Belvedere

Bromley

Orpington, Bromley, Penge, Beckenham - 0208 4617379 / 7026 / 7373

(Out of hours tel: 0300 303 8671 – emergencies only)

KCC Central Referral - 3000 41 11 11

Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, (Out of hours tel: 03000 41 91 91)

Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling,

Tunbridge Wells

Medway - 01634 334466

This is children's and adults' contact number (Out of hours tel: 03000 41 91 91)

Kent Police HQ – non-urgent number - 01622 690690 or 101

Central L.A.D.O. (Local Authority Designated Officer) Team - 03000 410 888



We Listen | We Support | We Care
Providing Specialist Domestic Abuse Services

DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

0800 917 9948

Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, Medway, Sevenoaks,
Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells
(Council areas)

Supported Accommodation

Refuge - Temporary emergency accommodation for
women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

01322 384792

Hostel - Temporary accommodation for
single young people aged 16 – 25yrs.

01474 352552

We create awareness of domestic abuse and the impact this has on
individuals, families, the community and society as a whole.



*provide specialised training in domestic abuse awareness.
Tailor made training specific to your organisation
is also available on request.
Please contact: 01322 280686*

For further advice phone our

Head Office – 01322 280686

Email: admin@choicesdaservice.org.uk

www.choicesdaservice.org.uk

Registered charity: 1125773. Company Reg No: 6640143
Registered office: 40 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 3JJ