

Annual Safeguarding Report for Beaminster Team for 2025

As a Team we have complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The safeguarding statement required by the Diocese is on the front page of the Team website, and gives our contact details, as well as those of the Diocesan officers. This information is also displayed on a poster in each of the churches in the Team.

Safeguarding has been an agenda item at all PCC meetings across the Team during the year, and I have produced a report for each round of PCC meetings. All the necessary Safeguarding checks were carried out during the year. Ten DBS checks have been completed, for those new to posts, and those requiring renewal. Safeguarding concerns raised during the year were all dealt with promptly, with support being sought from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team when necessary.

We have given priority to trying to ensure that all necessary safeguarding training was completed. In addition to the training completed online by many across the Team, six 'in person' training courses were held, two Basic Awareness courses attended by a total of twelve people, three Foundations courses attended by twenty three in total, and one Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse course, with thirteen in attendance. All Church Wardens and PCC members, and anyone involved with activities for children and young people are required to complete the Basic and Foundation courses, with the Foundation course being repeated every three years. During the year, the requirement for the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse course changed; it is now recommended that PCC members complete it, rather than it being a requirement, but it is now mandatory for all involved in working with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Each of the eleven PCC's in the Team, at their meetings in July and August 2025, approved the move to the new Parish Safeguarding Hubs. The eleven Hubs in the villages have all been partnered with the Beaminster Hub, which means that all records and DBS checks can continue to be kept and initiated centrally. All the information about DBS checks and Safeguarding training completed currently kept on the Safeguarding microsite will be transferred to the Hubs.

Towards the end of August 2025, we were informed by APCS, our DBS provider, that their software supplier, Intradev, had been subject to unauthorised access, and that files containing personal data had been copied. We ensured that all the necessary paperwork was completed promptly, and the six people in the Beaminster Team who were affected by this were offered support.

We now have a designated email address for safeguarding matters, beaminsterteamsafeguarding@gmail.com

It is important to remember that ensuring the safety of all children and vulnerable adults in our communities is a shared responsibility across all the churches and congregations of the Beaminster Team. We need to ensure that our churches, and all the activities we organise, are safe and welcoming to all, and to do what we can to create respectful environments within which all can feel at home.

Barbara Simmonds
PSO Beaminster Team