

# Promoting a Safer Church Parish Roadmap

## Introduction

In 2017, the Church of England published a safeguarding policy statement entitled *Promoting a Safer Church*. This states that all Church bodies should ensure that they:

*"...have a 'Promoting a Safer Church' action plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed."*

This paper suggests that a Parish Action Plan is structured under three main headings:

- Level 1 – Safer Foundations;
- Level 2 – Safer Activities;
- Level 3 – Safer Practices.

A summary of each level is given below.

## Level 1 – Safer Foundations

Level 1 relates to the safeguarding foundations that need to be laid by the PCC. The PCC approves a safeguarding policy, appoints people to key roles, ensures they receive relevant training, displays information, reviews and reports on safeguarding matters.

The PCC also prepares for Level 2 by formally authorising all church activities that involve children, young people or vulnerable adults.

It usually takes a PCC about six months to lay safer foundations. This helps the implementation of Levels 2 and 3 to proceed more smoothly.

## Level 2 – Safer Activities

For each church activity authorised in Level 1, the PCC approves a risk assessment, checks insurance cover, safely recruits leaders/helpers and ensures they receive relevant training and support.

Obviously, the magnitude of this work depends on the number of church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults.

## Level 3 – Safer Practices

The final actions relate to safeguarding procedures, optional safeguarding roles and specialist training.

A suggested Contents Page for a Parish Action Plan can be found overleaf.

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# Promoting a Safer Church

## Parish Action Plan – Contents Page

### Level 1 Safer Foundations

<b>Safeguarding Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Approval</li> <li>• Policy Promotion</li> <li>• Parish Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Safeguarding Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to Allegations or Concerns</li> </ul>
<b>Safeguarding Roles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Safeguarding Officer</li> <li>• Churchwardens</li> <li>• DBS Administrator</li> </ul>
<b>Safeguarding Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Safeguarding Officer</li> <li>• Churchwardens</li> <li>• DBS Administrator</li> <li>• PCC Members (recommended)</li> </ul>
<b>Displayed Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Policy Notice</li> <li>• Safeguarding Who's Who</li> <li>• Safeguarding Poster</li> </ul>
<b>Reviews and Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCC Agendas</li> <li>• Reports to the PCC</li> <li>• Reports to the APCM</li> </ul>
<b>Church Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCC Authorisation</li> </ul>

### Level 2 Safer Activities

<b>Safeguarding Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ex-Offenders</li> </ul>
<b>Safeguarding Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer Recruitment</li> </ul>
<b>Church Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Insurance</li> <li>• DBS Checks</li> <li>• Safer Recruitment</li> <li>• Training for Leaders</li> <li>• Training for Helpers</li> <li>• Support</li> </ul>

### Level 3 Safer Practices

<b>Safeguarding Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who Pose a Risk</li> <li>• Hire Agreements</li> <li>• Data Protection</li> <li>• Interregnum</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Roles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Advocate</li> <li>• Youth Advocate</li> <li>• Vulnerable Adult's Advocate</li> <li>• Children and/or Young People's Officer</li> </ul>
<b>Safeguarding Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate Roles</li> <li>• Specialist Training</li> <li>• Recommended Training (but not mandatory)</li> </ul>