

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH

BELLRINGERS

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Maintaining a Safe Environment for Young People and Adults with Care and Support Needs

Review	Date	Reviewed by	Agreed by Exec	Changes
1	May 2021	Ann White		Simplified
				Change definition of "Vulnerable Adults"
				Include bullying and images
2	October 2021	Ann White/Dave Bassford		Whistleblowing

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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BACKGROUND

The background to this policy is supported by a range of national and Church legislation and guidance. Full details are available in the CCCBR document Safeguarding – A Guide for Bellringers 2019, available on the CCCBR website

It should be noted that the Church includes “vulnerable adults” in their policies. The official definition of a vulnerable adult, or an adult at risk, is a person over the age of 18 who is unable to take care of him or herself OR unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. This is unlikely to apply to many, if any, ringers but ringing must take seriously its responsibilities to ensure the wellbeing of all ringers.

Operations of the Council : Registered Charity No. 270036

The Council is non-territorial – operating throughout the world and does not normally arrange local ringing for church services. The Council may, however, use church bells, mini-rings, handbells, simulators and other equipment as part of special events, annual conferences and local assistance to territorial societies.

The Council has no affiliated towers and is therefore dependent on permission by the owning authorities to allow ringing to take place. This is predominantly the Church of England, whose powers of control are delegated to the individual Parochial Church Council (PCC). The Council does not normally undertake face-to-face training of young people at local level.

This Safeguarding Policy applies to those occasions where the Council arranges events which gives rise to opportunity for close relationships to be established between adults and young people or adults at risk

COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Council is committed to the safeguarding of children under 18 and, where appropriate, adults at risk, and ensuring their well-being.
2. The Council has a responsibility to prevent all forms of abuse, neglect or bullying of such children or adults at risk.
3. The Council undertakes to exercise due diligence in the appointment and selection of those who work closely with children or adults at risk.
4. The Council will follow guidelines issued by the church authorities and meet such civil legal requirements as may be in force.

SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

- The Council will appoint an officer(s) with lead responsibility for safeguarding
- The Safeguarding Officer(s) will report to the Council_Executive
- The Council will keep a register of attendance at all Council events
- The Council will carry out a risk assessment to identify those events and activities where the presence of a person or persons who have completed diocesan safeguarding training and/or are DBS checked is necessary or desirable. A list of such persons will be kept in a secure manner for the event concerned
- At least two adults will be present at any Council event where young or vulnerable people are present, preferably one of each gender, and at least one to be DBS checked
- Where young people under the age of 18 are present at Council events, written consent should be obtained from a parent. Where a parent is present, then the parent is responsible for their own child
- Unless undertaken as a private arrangement, the transport of young people to a Council activity will involve a DBS checked driver and, wherever possible, a second adult present.
- Any still or video images of young people at a Council event, when not taken by a parent, should have the written consent of all people included under the age of 18 and of their parents. No photography should be used for commercial purposes

RAISING CONCERNS AND HANDLING ALLEGATIONS

- The Council will deal sympathetically with any complaints of abuse and immediately advise the appropriate authorities. This will normally be the local Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding Officers where an event is taking place.
- If the young or vulnerable person is considered to be in immediate danger the police will be notified immediately by dialling 999
- In the handling of any safeguarding issue, those involved must ensure that any information is kept confidential in line with the handling of sensitive data under data protection legislation

KNOWN OFFENDERS

- A known offender **may** be able to take part in Council activities depending upon (a) the nature of their offence, (b) any court restrictions on their activities, (c) perceived risk and (d) the level of supervision that can be afforded.
- Any decision to accommodate such a person will be taken seriously and have due regard to the absolute safety of young and vulnerable people and the reassurance of parents and carers. A written agreement must be obtained, this generally between the individual, the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

WHISTLEBLOWING

- The Council is committed to being open, honest and accountable and encourages the raising of concerns regarding failure to protect children or adults at risk
- Any concerns should be referred to the Chair of Trustees
- Following further enquiries, individual feedback on the progress and outcome of any investigation will be given wherever possible

REVIEW OF POLICY

- This policy will be kept under review and subject to regular updating, in any event not less than every 4 years.