

PARISH OF ST MARK'S BATTERSEA

POLICY FOR RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

**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;
- refuse to condone any form of abuse; and
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly 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 child abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour; and
- 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 perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst refusing to condone the perpetration or continuation of any form of abuse.

**In our publicity -**

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public areas of relevance to survivors, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**When concerns are raised -**

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help; and
- 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; and
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.**

The Parish of St Mark's Battersea "Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse" has been reviewed and updated:

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PCC Chairman PJS PERKIN

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PCC Secretary S ELSWORTH

Date: 23 January 2019