

NEWSLETTER TO ALL PARISH CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE ADULT CO-ORDINATORS – APRIL 2010

This is the first joint Newsletter to all Coordinators of Child and Adult Protection. We start by saying a huge thank you for all your very hard work in this field and to remind you of our continuing wish to support you and your parish in all that you do.

Within the **child protection** arena there is little change to report to you. The new Working Together document produced by the Department of Children, Schools and Families is now out and can be found on the web at publications.dcsf.gov.uk. Faith groups have a special mention with the recognition that *“They are some of the largest providers of children and youth work, and have an important role in safeguarding children and supporting families.”*

Working Together speaks about the importance of every organisation having someone they can speak to if there is concern about a child or a family. It also reminds of the importance for the church to work with any known sex or other violent offenders who maybe in a congregation on a contract. If you are concerned about or wonder if someone in your church should have such a contract then please contact us.

While the newspapers remind us of the failures within the Catholic Church to protect children we should not be complacent and believe that it cannot happen to us, it could. The church, because of its unique position and open door approach, is extremely vulnerable; its children therefore far more so than in many places. It is very important that church leaders in our Diocese do not form a view that because *they* consider that they know someone well that they do not need to inform us or need our advice. Within child and adult protection it is vitally important not to work alone. For abuse to take place there has to be a motivated offender, a vulnerable victim and a failure in the protective environment.

In relation to **safeguarding adults** we are moving fast in the Diocese with many parishes having written up their policies and appointed a vulnerable adult protection co-ordinators – well done, thank you. We now have a Vulnerable Adult Management Group and we are pleased to confirm the chair is Dr Steve Lillicrap who is Priest in Charge of Teynham and Lynsted and Cluster Leader of Doddington, Newnham, Oare and Luddenham and Wychling. Steve was a GP so he is ideally placed to advise us on all pertinent issues. Other members of the Management Group are Revd Amanda Evans, Revd Peter Richmond, Revd Rosemary Siebert, Jay Aylett & Carol McKeough from KCC Adult Services, Christine Bostock, formerly Dementia Advisor for Church in Society, Julian Hills and Sheila Rooke.

We are working on the training of a group of qualified social workers to come into parishes (on request) to lead vulnerable adult awareness training. This will be ready by the end of the summer so, watch this space.

While everyone waits with baited breath to know about the ISA and Vetting and Barring arrangements, we are unable to update you at this point. Faith guidelines are still awaited but rest assured we will contact you as soon as developments become clearer.

Elaine Rose

Simon Tapp

Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Advisers