**Safeguarding Scenarios for PCCs**

**Scenario 1 - Emma**

**After a Sunday service, Emma, a 40-year-old church member, approaches James, a Church Warden. She appears distressed and asks to speak privately. Her husband Mark is the Parish Safeguarding Officer for the church. In the quiet of the office, Emma tells James that she has been experiencing domestic abuse from her husband, for the past five years. She describes incidents of physical violence, emotional manipulation, and financial control. Emma is particularly worried about the impact on their 12-year-old daughter, Lily, who has become increasingly withdrawn and anxious.**

What should James say to Emma?

What is/are the safeguarding concerns?

What should James do next?

What action should be taken?

What are the key points for the PCC?

**Key Points for PCC:**

* The role of the church in providing a safe space for disclosures.
* Importance of immediate and compassionate response.
* Collaboration with diocesan safeguarding teams and support services.
* Ongoing pastoral care and support for victims and their families.

**Scenario 2 - Jane**

**During a weekday coffee morning, Jane, a concerned church member, approaches Reverend Thomas with a heavy heart. She shares her worries about her neighbour’s child, 7-year-old Ben. Jane has noticed that Ben often appears unkempt, hungry, and is frequently left unsupervised. She has also heard loud arguments and crying from the house next door. Jane is deeply troubled and feels compelled to act but is unsure how to proceed.**

What should Thomas say to Jane?

What is/are the safeguarding concerns?

What should Thomas do next?

What action should be taken?

What are the key points for the PCC?

**Key Points for PCC:**

* The church's role in identifying and reporting child neglect.
* Importance of a compassionate and immediate response.
* Collaboration with safeguarding teams and other agencies.
* Providing holistic support to the child and family.

**Scenario 3 - Michael**

**After a community event at the church, Michael, a long-time church member, approaches Reverend Sarah with a concern. He shares his worries about his neighbours, a recently retired couple who have just moved from Zimbabwe to the village. Michael has observed that two other individuals, a young black couple in their late teens, also seem to be living in the family's home. They appear fearful and withdrawn and reluctant to talk to him at all, and Michael has also noticed that they rarely leave the property and only then, if accompanied by the elderly couple.**

What should Sarah say to Michael?

What is/are the safeguarding concerns?

What should Sarah do next?

What action should be taken?

What are the key points for the PCC?

**Key Points for PCC:**

* The church's role in identifying and reporting modern day slavery.
* Importance of a swift and compassionate response.
* Collaboration with safeguarding teams, law enforcement, and support services.
* Providing ongoing pastoral care and community support for victims.

**Scenario 4: Mrs Thompson**

**During a weekly Bible study group, several church members notice that Mr. Thompson, an 82-year-old long-time attendee, has become increasingly forgetful and confused. He often repeats questions, struggles to follow conversations, and sometimes appears disoriented. Mrs. Green, who hosts the group, is very concerned.**

What should Mrs Green do?

What is/are the safeguarding concerns?

What action should be taken?

What are the key points for the PCC?

**Key Points for PCC:**

* The church's role in identifying and supporting members with dementia.
* Importance of a compassionate and proactive response.
* Collaboration with safeguarding teams and adult social services.
* Providing ongoing pastoral care and community support

**Scenario 5: PCC member**

**A member of the PCC turns up late to a meeting seeming very anxious and a bit confused. They have not been seen around the village/town much since the last PCC meeting and it is unlike them to be late, and you notice that they are not dressed as neatly as they usually do for PCC meetings. They are very quiet at the beginning of the meeting but they seem to become more comfortable as the meeting goes on and they participate a bit more toward the end. When everyone is getting ready to leave, you notice this person has already gone and accidentally left their jacket behind. When attempting to drop it off on the way home, they do not answer their door despite all the lights being left on.**

Is this a safeguarding concern?

What should the next steps be?

Who should be involved?

What are the key points for the PCC?

**Key points for PCC:**

* This event on its own would not meet the threshold of safeguarding but there may be some welfare concerns for the individual.
* Importance of a compassionate and appropriate response.
* Informing PSO or incumbent of concerns for the persons welfare to help build a bigger picture. This may not be the first instance that someone has reported and may prompt a welfare discussion with the individual through the appropriate channels.
* Providing a safe space for those who may be struggling and community support.
* Collaboration with safeguarding teams and adult social services if it needs to be escalated.

**Scenario 6: Reader/Vicar**

**You are attending the Sunday service that is just about to begin. You see the Reader/Vicar stand at the front and introduce the service, but something seems different than usual. You notice that the Reader/Vicar does not seem very confident and is stumbling over some words, and they seem quite distracted as they try to focus on the prayers. They look very tired and you're not sure, but you think you saw them dab away a tear near the end of the last hymn. At the end of the service as you leave, you notice the Reader/Vicar is not by the door as usual, but the churchwarden is instead. You know that the Reader/Vicar has recently been asked to take on some services in the neighbouring benefice whilst they are in vacancy, and you haven’t seen them much since they attended a family funeral several miles away a few weeks ago.**

Is this a safeguarding concern?

What should the next steps be?

Who should be involved?

What are the key points for the PCC?

**Key points for PCC:**

* This event on its own would not meet the threshold of safeguarding but there may be some welfare concerns.
* Importance of a compassionate and appropriate response.
* Informing the PSO, incumbent or Area Dean of concerns for the persons welfare. This may prompt a welfare discussion through the appropriate channels.
* Providing community support for those who may be struggling.