

Diocese of Shrewsbury Victim and Survivor Commitment by Bishop Mark Davies

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is committed to treating everyone with respect and dignity. As a diocese we are committed to moving forward and building a foundation and relationships based upon faith and in trust with all victims and survivors. As Bishop, I fully understand that the creation of a safe culture begins with the respectful, compassionate and non-judgemental response to people who have been affected by abuse in the Church regardless of where the harm occurred or who is responsible. We will meet victims and survivors where they are in their own journey, we will act justly, behave with integrity, and walk with them using the best supportive practices.

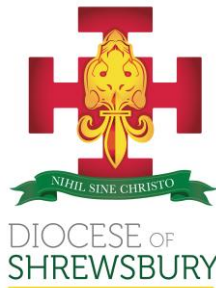
We remain humbled by the courage of those who speak about their experience to us, privileged that we have been given an opportunity to give a voice to the voiceless, to listen and learn, to support their all-important healing and, through their courage, to make the Church a safer place for everyone.

When a victim or survivor contacts the Safeguarding Office to share their information, they can choose how they want to communicate their experience with our highly experienced Safeguarding Coordinator, either in person at a venue comfortable to them, speaking on the telephone or in writing either electronically or by traditional means. No matter which communication method is chosen, it will be kept confidential, responded to in a timely way and taken at a pace which is comfortable for the person sharing their story.

It is the policy of the Diocese of Shrewsbury to refer all disclosures of abuse to statutory authorities (Police & Social Services) in line with the national Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency guidance whether the abuse is current or non-recent. We do this to protect children, young people, and adults from harm, as perpetrators may still be alive and potentially working with vulnerable groups. Any referrals to statutory authorities are made in discussion with the person who is reporting an experience, and they will always have the choice of whether they consent to their details being included in referrals. Support will be provided through the process and if information is required to be shared, the person reporting will be informed of what will be shared and with whom.

Support will always be offered when requested by the victim or survivor if they want to be accompanied by someone during conversations or meetings. We acknowledge that deciding what, when, and how to speak out about abuse is a deeply personal matter and the diocese will ensure that all concerns are listened to and taken seriously. Those seeking support will always be kept informed so that they can retain as much control as possible and feel empowered to make their decisions in their own best interests.

Anyone contacting the diocese to report concerns or allegations will be offered support. This



will be centred around the person's individual needs and could include such things as pastoral support, spiritual support, or therapeutic support.

The diocese has and will meet its obligations under General Data Protection Regulations relating to information and its responsibilities to share information with statutory agencies, but we will never forget that there is a person at the heart of this process.

+Mark

Diocesan aims to deliver effective safeguarding-

- Ensuring safeguarding is central to the Church's mission and everyone recognises that they have a safeguarding responsibility.
- Provision of appropriate and ongoing training and support for volunteers and clergy, whilst ensuring all volunteers, clergy and staff are appropriately recruited in line with safer recruitment practices.
- Collaborative working with statutory authorities, faith organisations, charities, and individuals to provide effective support for those seeking it.
- On an individual case by case basis the diocese will consider funding for independent counselling where appropriate.
- To identify emerging themes and areas for best practice development, cases and support work will be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Sub-Committee and Trustees on an anonymised basis for review.
- The diocese will be transparent in its safeguarding communications by ensuring safeguarding literature such as contact posters and Parish Safeguarding Representative information is readily available by a variety of methods (posters, website information, leaflets). The diocese has a dedicated section on the central website to seek safeguarding information.
- Safeguarding will be promoted across the diocese by engaging with the Day of Prayer for Victims & Survivors of Abuse and Safeguarding Sunday. This provides further opportunities for a focus on safeguarding.
- The Diocese of Shrewsbury respects the rights of all individuals when collecting, processing, and storing personal data. You can read our full privacy notice at <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/legal/privacy-notice/>.



The Diocesan Safeguarding Office is contactable Monday to Friday 9am-5pm on Tel. 0151 652 9855 and can also be contacted on safeguarding@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

If you have an immediate concern, please don't delay in contacting your local Police (in an emergency dial 999 and also via their non-emergency number 101) or Social Services <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

[Safe Spaces](#) is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal, and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales or the Church in Wales. Safe Spaces are available on 0300 303 1056 (Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-1pm. Excluding bank holidays).

Out of Hours Help & Support

There may be services local to you, and there are also national services that offer support and advice to victims and survivors of abuse.

National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) is a national charity offering support to adult survivors of all types of childhood abuse, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect.

NAPAC helpline: 0808 801 0331

<https://napac.org.uk/>

Rape Crisis England and Wales is a national charity and the umbrella body for all Rape Crisis Centres. You can find your nearest Rape Crisis Centre and how to get help if you've experienced rape, child abuse and/or any other kind of sexual violence from the email address below. You can also find information on advocacy and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) services, counselling and therapeutic services as well as helplines and emotional support.

National Rape and Sexual Abuse Helpline number 0808 802 9999 (lines are open 12 noon - 2.30pm and 7pm - 9.30pm every day of the year).

<https://rapecrisis.org.uk/>

Mind is a national mental health charity providing advice and support to anyone with a mental health problem. Infoline: 0300 123 3393 (lines are open 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (except bank holidays).

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

SurvivorsUK provides support to adult males who have experienced any form of sexual violence. They provide a web chat and text chat support service and counselling from their London premises.

Call 0203 598 3898

Email: info@survivorsuk.org

<https://www.survivorsuk.org/>

Samaritans is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Call any time on: 116 123 Email: jo@samaritans.org

<https://www.samaritans.org>

The Survivors Trust is a national umbrella agency for specialist rape and sexual abuse support organisations for women, men, young people and children. Support line offering advice, information and support: 08088 010818

<https://www.thesurvivorstrust.org/>

NHS Choices provides information about local health services, along with health and lifestyle advice.



<https://www.nhs.uk/>

Citizens Advice gives free, confidential information and advice to assist people with money, legal, consumer and other problems.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

1 in 6 is an organisation that supports male victims and survivors.

<https://1in6.org/>

ChildLine - Where children and young people can get help and advice about a wide range of issues, call on 0800 1111, talk to a counsellor online, send Childline an email or post on the message boards.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>