

## **Safeguarding Trainer and Volunteer Co-ordinator - Background paper**

### **Safeguarding in the Diocese of Chester**

The Church of England is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. In seeking to be open and welcoming, we recognise that within congregations a wide range of individuals may include those who have been victims of abuse, or indeed those who have perpetrated abuse against others. We work hard to ensure that our churches are places of welcome - as well as places which are safe, including for children and vulnerable adults.

Our Safeguarding team is the key element in delivering on this commitment. Each parish is run by its own Parochial Church Council (PCC), and we provide advice, resources, and training in support of the mission and ministry of the clergy and churches in the parishes. We are currently seeking to grow and develop this important function, with an opportunity for an experienced and motivated professional to help shape our work in this new role.

The Safeguarding team currently comprises two safeguarding professionals and two administrative/support staff. We are supplementing the team with this dedicated training post and additional administrative support for an initial twelve month period but could be extended up to two years. The team is based at our diocesan office, located in Daresbury.

### **The Opportunity**

The purpose of the role is to support our delivery of safeguarding training to around 2,000 people over the next two years. In a drive to improve standards, the National Safeguarding Team introduced a new training framework and curriculum in 2021. The Diocese currently delivers a comprehensive package of safeguarding training in line with the national expectations. We would like to strengthen the training by having training support volunteers in the sessions. The part time Safeguarding Training and Volunteer Co-Ordinator will work together with the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, to deliver this programme and assist with the co-ordination of the volunteer trainers. Although it was envisaged that this training would be delivered face-to-face,

there is the likelihood that some, if not most, will be delivered online via zoom sessions.

This role is available for 20 hours a week. However, the role involves working on a flexible basis and will include evening and weekend working, with more contact hours during school term times and fewer during holiday periods to reflect working patterns among the people with whom we work.

To be successful in the role you will combine an understanding of safeguarding issues with the ability to manage training programmes and develop and deliver training events. You will have the interpersonal skills required to facilitate learning, and to coach and mentor people from a range of backgrounds.

You will need to be comfortable working in a Christian context. Given the audience for the training, you will have, or need to develop, an understanding of the Church of England and an appreciation of the culture in order to establish credibility and provide constructive advice to clergy and other role holders and volunteers responsible for safeguarding at a parish level.

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