

## **Parish statement on Domestic Abuse**

### **Parish of Sheffield Manor**

**The Government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:** 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

The Church recognises additional categories of neglect, spiritual and digital abuse.

**All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop.**

**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;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately 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 abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- 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 alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**In our publicity:**

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

**When concerns are raised:**

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;

- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.
- we will follow the guidelines as set out in Section 2 of the publication noted below.

**In our care:**

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**This Statement is based on and should be read in conjunction with the Church of England publication “Responding well to domestic abuse – Policy and practice guidance” (Second Edition) from the House of Bishops.**

**<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017->**

**In particular you may wish to look at Appendix 1: “Domestic Abuse Fact Sheet” and Appendix 2: “The Legal Context”.**

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact**

Revd Sibylle Batten on 07966 293303

or

Moni Olorunfemi (Parish Safeguarding Officer) on 07305 996223

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:

Incumbent ..... *Sibylle Batten* ..... Revd Sibylle Batten

Churchwarden ..... *Sue Williams* ..... Sue Williams

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Review and Renewal Date: November 2024 meeting of the PCC.