

PRESENTING PASTORAL ISSUE
What does the evidence show?
Mental health? Safeguarding? Or both?

SAFEGUARDING

MENTAL HEALTH

Step 1 – Listen and assess
Always start by talking, listening and observing behaviour if at all possible.
If the parishioner has a carer (family or friend) ask if they can be involved; if you know there is a history of mental ill-health and you feel medical help is required, encourage the involvement firstly of the GP.
If you notice behaviour changing, but it isn't threatening, see if you can determine whether this is of real concern or an intensified pattern of previous behaviour?
Then, with others if possible, decide which path of help to go down for the next step. If you need advice, speak to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

If:

- any individual does not feel safe
- there is threatening demeanour or behaviour
- behaviour generally disruptive

share information with Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and relevant parish roles
Clear boundaries need to be introduced if not already in place
Contact individual's family/friends
Consider Step 3 if immediate risk of harm

Start of the formal safeguarding process
Step 1
Refer to Model Personal Risk Assessment flowchart
Follow the Lone Working Guidelines
Record events and conversations
Contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)

Step 2
Inform police on 101 or local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) of general concern
Consider exclusion

Step 3
As a last resort, obtain Police assistance on 999

Step 2
If you know the parishioner is receiving care from the mental health services, encourage them to make contact with their Community Team

Step 3
If there is resistance to this and you are concerned about the risk to the parishioner or someone else, contact the Community Team yourself

Step 4
If you don't know the contact details of the CMHT, in Hertfordshire, phone the Single Point of Access (SPA) on 0300 777 0707 or the out of hours helpline 01438 843322
In Bedfordshire, the 24/7 Single Point of Access (SPA) number is 0345 602 4064

Step 5
If you are extremely concerned about the risk to the health of the parishioner, go with them to the local A & E Department, which has access to a psychiatrist

Step 6
If you do not feel safe to go to A & E and remain concerned about the risk to your parishioner or yourself, phone the Police on 999 **THIS MUST BE THE LAST RESORT**