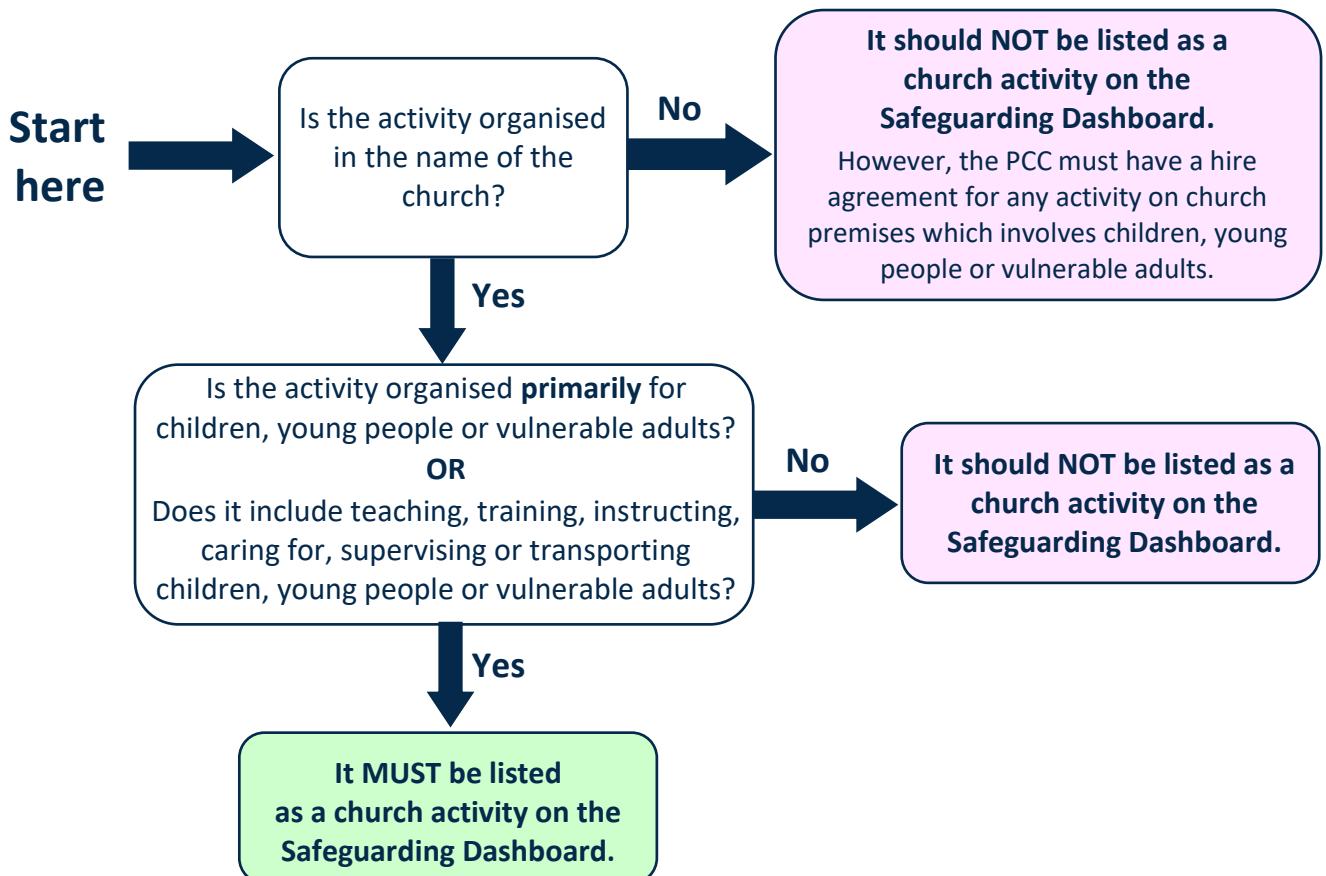# Church Activities on the Dashboard

Level 2 of the Safeguarding Dashboard focusses on **Safer Activities**. This requires the PCC to agree the list of church activities that need to be added to the dashboard.

This flowchart will help the PCC to decide which church activities need to be added.

Start here → Is the activity organised in the name of the church?

No → **It should NOT be listed as a church activity on the Safeguarding Dashboard.** However, the PCC must have a hire agreement for any activity on church premises which involves children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Yes ↓

Is the activity organised **primarily** for children, young people or vulnerable adults? **OR** Does it include teaching, training, instructing, caring for, supervising or transporting children, young people or vulnerable adults?

No → **It should NOT be listed as a church activity on the Safeguarding Dashboard.**

Yes ↓

It MUST be listed as a church activity on the Safeguarding Dashboard.

Is it organised in the name of the church?

It's a simple question, but the following examples illustrate that there's not always a straightforward answer

Case Study – Toddler Group

Twenty years ago, some church mums launched a baby and toddler group at St Mary's Church Hall. The leadership of the group changed over the years, and none of the current leaders attend church.

The vicar continues to think of it as a church activity and often drops in to chat with the parents and the group leaders. However, the churchwardens regard it as a community activity which is independent of the church.

Case Study – Camping Weekend

St Peter's is a large church with many families. Two years ago, a group of dads from the church decided to take their children camping for the weekend. It was a great success and the following year an invitation was extended to other dads and children via the church news sheet.

This year many more dads and children are attending the camp. Most assume that it's a church run activity, but the vicar considers it to be just a group of friends who are going camping together.

Ultimately, it is the PCC's responsibility to decide if an activity is organised in the name of the church. This not only affects the safeguarding arrangements, it also has implications for the activity's governance, finances and insurance. All relevant parties must therefore be informed of the PCC's decision.

Who is the activity for? ...and what does it involve?

The following examples illustrate how the flowchart can be applied to various types of church activities:

- **Church Choir**
  A choir needs to be added to the dashboard if it has members who are children, young people or vulnerable adults. This is because it's an activity that includes **training**.

- **Light Party** (an alternative Halloween party for children)
  The Light Party needs to be added to the dashboard because it's an activity that is **primarily for children**. The fact that it happens only once a year is irrelevant.

- **Messy Church**
  Messy church needs to be added to the dashboard because it's an activity that is **primarily for children**. The fact that children are accompanied by their own parents is irrelevant.

- **Open the Book** (Bible stories in schools)
  Open the Book needs to be added to the dashboard because it's an activity that is **primarily for children**. The fact that it takes place in the local school is irrelevant.

- **Pastoral Visiting** (for people who are elderly and housebound)
  Pastoral visiting needs to be added to the dashboard if such visits are made on behalf of the church. This is because it is **primarily for vulnerable adults**.

- **Toddler Group**
  A toddler group needs to be added to the dashboard because it's an activity that is **primarily for children**. The fact that children are accompanied by their own parents is irrelevant.

- **Transporting people to a youth event**
  The **transporting of young people** needs to be added to the dashboard if it is organised on behalf of the church. Any private arrangements between parents do not need to be added.

The flowchart can also be used for many other types of church activities. Most will be relatively straight-forward, but your Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor can help with any complicated decisions.

It is recommended that this sheet is given to PCC members when they are agreeing or reviewing the list of church activities that need to be added to the Safeguarding Dashboard.