

Safeguarding Worksheet 4A

Victims and survivors of abuse

Safeguarding Standard 4 relates to victims and survivors.

The [Our Parish](#) booklet includes the following indicators of 'what good looks like':

- Our parish hears, respects, believes and genuinely cares for those who are reporting abuse.
- Our parish responds to safeguarding disclosures in a victim-centred and trauma-informed way.
- Our parish is aware of the routes to disclosure and the processes that follow and can communicate that to those who report abuse.
- Our parish acts on safeguarding concerns appropriately, transparently and in a timely manner.
- Our parish fulfils the support requirements set out in the '[Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse](#)' House of Bishops' Guidance.
- Our parish also supports victims and survivors of non-Church based abuse, abuse within churches other than the Church of England, and those with broader safeguarding issues (e.g., mental health, homelessness) in accessing relevant support services.
- Our parish ensures that the Bible and Christian theology is used with victims and survivors sensitively and with their consent, to provide care and support.

[Our Parish](#) booklet - page 3

Therefore, the incumbent and Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) could meet and consider how the church might better respond to victims and survivors of abuse.

In preparation for the meeting

Victims and survivors of abuse have a unique perspective that can inform what, how, and when a church makes changes to keep everyone safe.

In practice, it may not always be possible to involve a victim and survivor in this work; for example, victims and survivors may not wish to take part. In these cases, a church should record their reasoning for not including a victim or survivor perspective.

A church must always take a trauma-informed approach to their work, especially with victims and survivors, and ensure that when carrying out this work, they are mindful of best practice in this area. [The National Survivor Participation Framework](#) provides some helpful guidance, and a church can always ask their diocesan safeguarding team for advice.

The incumbent and PSO could consider if it would be helpful to invite other people to the meeting (e.g. clergy, readers, churchwardens).

During the meeting

Please discuss the indicators of 'what good looks like' at the top of this page.

What actions could be taken to help the church better respond to victims and survivors of abuse?

Repeating this discussion

The National Safeguarding Team recommends a three-year cycle for implementing and reviewing the *Safeguarding Standards*.¹ This worksheet could be used at least once during this three-year cycle.

¹ [National Safeguarding Standards and QA Framework](#) - page 4