

Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse

Parish of Elmdon

agreed by the Parochial Church Council on 5th March 2024.

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 of worth 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, whilst at the same time assessing and managing any risks in collaboration with the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor as appropriate.

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 and working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

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

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact:

Sarah Leckie, Parish Domestic Abuse Contact

sarah@elmdonchurch.org

Revd Bekah Clark, Rector

07462 038151 or 0121 743 6336, revbekahclark@gmail.com

Lesley Huss, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator

safeguarding@elmdonchurch.org

Steph Haynes, Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser

07342 993 844

Organisations which can support you if you are affected by domestic abuse:

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid	For women and children in the Birmingham and Solihull area	bswaid.org 0808 800 028
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	Supports women fleeing domestic abuse	www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk 0808 2000 247
ManKind Initiative	For men and their children	mankind.org.uk 01823 334 244
Galop	For LGBT+ people	galop.org.uk 0800 999 5428
Saheli	For women from Black, Asian and minority communities and their children	www.saheli.org.uk 0161 945 4187
Hourglass	For older people at risk of, experiencing, or recovering from any form of abuse	wearehourglass.org 0808 808 8141
Respect Phonenumber	For perpetrators of domestic abuse, offering meaningful opportunities to change	respectphonenumber.org.uk 0808 802 4040