**St Michael-le-Belfrey PCC Paper**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title:** Responding to Domestic Abuse Policy |  |
| **Author:** Diocese + Izzy Pysanczyn |  |
| **Date: July 2023** |  |



Parish of St Michael le Belfrey, York - Domestic Abuse Policy   
  
Policy for Responding to Domestic 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.

**In our care –**

* Ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse (this may include referral to a specialist agency e.g. IDAS);
* Identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities so that the survivors are dealt with separately from alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact. :-**

Kirsty McCullough, Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer. 07883 391163 or safeguarding@belfrey.org

**National Helpline Phone Numbers:**

England: Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (run in a partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge)

Eve Christian Refuge (Women): 01604 230311 www.eveda.org.uk

Male Advice & Enquiry: 0808 801 0327

Local Domestic Abuse Service : IDAS 0300 110 110