

# **The Parish of Holy Trinity, Heworth**

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY**

### **Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse**

**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)

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- 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.**

Sheila Robson, Parish Safeguarding Officer. 07981 222867 or [safeguarding@htheworth.org](mailto:safeguarding@htheworth.org)

**National Helpline Phone Numbers:**

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

Eve Christian Refuge (Women): 01604 230311 [www.eveda.org.uk](http://www.eveda.org.uk)

Male Advice & Enquiry: 0808 801 0327

Local Domestic Abuse Service : IDAS 0300 110 110