

## **The Parish of St Edmund, Roundhay, Leeds Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse**

### **1. DEFINITION**

1.1. Domestic abuse is a serious issue and that incidents of domestic abuse are common and critically affect many people's lives. Domestic abuse is a serious issue about the misuse of power and exercise of control by one adult over another adult within the context of an intimate or close family relationship. This also includes a child witnessing the abuse described above.

1.2. For the purposes of this policy, domestic abuse is defined as:

1.2.1. *"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, regardless of gender or sexuality, who are or have been, intimate partners or in a close family relationship such as parents or adult children".*

1.3. This policy applies to all persons equally.

### **2. POLICY STATEMENT**

2.1. All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- 2.1.1. ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- 2.1.2. protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- 2.1.3. recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- 2.1.4. enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

2.2. We recognise that:

- 2.2.1. all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- 2.2.2. 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;
- 2.2.3. domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- 2.2.4. domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;

2.2.5. domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;

2.2.6. working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

2.3. We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

2.3.1. In all our activities:

2.3.1.1. valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

2.3.2. In our publicity:

2.3.2.1. 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.

2.4. When concerns are raised:

2.4.1. 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.

2.5. In our care:

2.5.1. ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;

2.5.2. identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

### **3. CONTACT DETAILS & SOURCES OF HELP**

3.1. Local and national helplines are displayed in both the church toilets and church hall toilets, in the form appended to this policy statement.

3.2. Further sources of help are available at:

[Help for victims of domestic violence and abuse \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/help-for-victims-of-domestic-violence-and-abuse)

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4. In the parish, if you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact:

4.1. Parish Safeguarding Officer: Carol Milburn, who can be contacted by telephone on 0113 225 0510 or 07711 616938.

## 5. REVIEW

5.1. This policy will be **reviewed every year** unless there are changes in legislation, best practice or other Diocesan policies impact on its effectiveness.

This policy was adopted by the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Edmund, Roundhay, Leeds ("PCC").

### MARCH 2025 REVIEW

At a meeting of the PCC on 17 MARCH 2025 it was held that the PCC were content that one change was required and made to the document and that it was approved for use for the forthcoming year\*;

Signed for and on behalf of the PCC by: Michelle Lepine (PRINT NAME)

Michelle Lepine (SIGNATURE)

Date: 17/03/25

Review Date: March 2026

