RESPONDING TO SAFEGUARDING SITUATIONS FLOW CHART

You have information about a serious safeguarding situation

If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, call the emergency services on 999. If there are concerns about their immediate welfare, don't delay call Children or Adult's Social care.

Most situations are not emergencies. Ensure if you can that immediate safety arrangements are in place for victim(s) with no contact with alleged abuser, and for others potentially vulnerable. Remember to protect yourself from harm too.

Immediately inform your incumbent or the Parish Safeguarding Officer or the leader of your team of your concern

If you are unsure or worried about how serious a situation is, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser for guidance and reassurance

Keep a secure written or electronic record of all your actions

If the information concerns potential harm by someone in the church, ensure the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is immediately informed

If you are advised to do so, refer to your Local Authority Children's Services, Adult Safeguarding Team (AST) or to the Police

Maintain confidentiality – don't talk to others about it BUT - look after yourself – debrief with your team leader, your incumbent or your parish safeguarding officer, and ask for further support if you need it

Follow the advice of the Local Authority, Police and your parish and diocesan advisers, and cooperate fully with any investigation