## Summary Guidance on Domestic Abuse :

## What do you need to have in place in your Parish or Cathedral?

**Do:**

* PCC/Chapter to agree a domestic abuse statement including who to contact if there are concerns (see template Parish/Cathedral statement);
* Appoint a named individual who is a point of contact for any advice and support. This may be the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO);
* Follow the process on how to respond to concerns about domestic abuse (see Responding to concerns about domestic abuse)

*If you are in any doubt as to what action to take refer to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA).*

* Support those in leadership positions, pastoral and safeguarding roles to engage in Diocesan domestic abuse training.
* Consider the best place to display the domestic abuse statement including information about helplines and local services.
* Discuss domestic abuse in appropriate contexts such as marriage preparation (see Appendix 8 of “Responding Well to Domestic abuse 2017” for good practice guidance).
* Challenge inappropriate comments and behaviour by church members.

**Recommended good practice:**

* Encourage leaders and those who preach to speak against domestic abuse in teaching, sermons, prayers and parish magazines - remember that many of the congregation may have a personal experience.
* Offer some awareness raising activities e.g. invite speakers from local domestic abuse agencies, organise an activity around 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women)
* Consider including activities around healthy relationships within activities for children and young people.
* Develop links with any local domestic abuse organisations.
* Organise courses in parenting and confidence-building.

Adapted from “Responding well to Domestic Abuse 2017” (Church of England)

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