

MOTHERS' UNION

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Diocesan Committee have based this policy on a national safeguarding policy produced by the Britain and Ireland Board. The national policy includes the main policy and a number of more detailed appendices. Both can be accessed via this link:
<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/mothers-union-britain-safeguarding-policy-andprocedure>

1. At the first Committee meeting in each year, and every time National, Provincial or Diocesan Anglican safeguarding procedures are significantly revised, the committee will adopt the Anglican/Provincial safeguarding procedures for their activities. This will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

2. The Committee nominates the following members:

Diocesan President Madeline Hellier and *a.n other to be appointed*

- To have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of Mothers' Union activities across the diocese, including liaison with the Provincial/Central Safeguarding Officer
- To ensure that safeguarding requirements are met for all activities or initiatives of MU members in the diocese; and
- To be part of the MU Britain & Ireland Community of Interest for Safeguarding

3. Annually, the committee should review the roles in Mothers' Union activities in the diocese that include direct involvement with children, young people and adults at risk to ensure that those volunteers/MU members involved in the activities e.g. MU run Parent and Toddler groups, MU run Away From It All holidays, MU run Child Contact Centres,

- Are appropriately recruited
- Receive training, either in line with the Anglican provincial/diocesan guidelines or those of a partner organisation with whom Mothers' Union is working;
Are aware of the relevant reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations

(N.B. The MU Child Contact Centres in the Diocese of Bath & Wells have their own policy, which is in line with this.)

It is expected that in most situations, Mothers' Union, at Provincial, Diocesan or local level, will follow the safeguarding policies and practices of the Anglican church and those of any other external organisation that Mothers' Union is working with.

4. Annually, the committee should review the roles in Mothers' Union activities in the diocese that include direct involvement with vulnerable adults.

This specifically includes Diocesan Committee members, The members of committee responsible for Diocesan Members (currently Sue Hoare and Rosemary Sage) and all Branch Leaders.

5. Guidance documents are provided to assist Diocesan Committees in the area of safeguarding and to offer good practice guidelines to make it easier for Mothers' Union groups, branches and individual members to 'do the right thing' when it comes to safeguarding. Good safeguarding practice does not create barriers to our Mothers' Union outreach, but makes it possible for us to engage with vulnerable groups in our communities appropriately and safely, both for them and for our members.

a) No one is expected to know everything about safeguarding but by following guidance and talking to those who have expertise in this area, we can show that we are doing everything possible to safeguard all those who come into contact with Mothers' Union.

b) If any Mothers' Union member, group or diocese chooses not to follow current guidance and a safeguarding incident were to occur, this can result in a loss of insurance cover and incur other liabilities, as well as having a negative impact on the reputation of Mothers' Union.

c) It is felt that most safeguarding issues will arise 'under the umbrella of a church-based group' (which might involve people who happen to be MU members). In these instances, members of Mothers' Union who identify a safeguarding issue should record the details and, with the knowledge of the person to whom it concerns, refer the matter to the Safeguarding Officer within their Parish, Benefice or Deanery.

However, for all events organised by Mothers' Union members where a safeguarding issue is identified, a Mother's Union member should record the details and, with the knowledge of the person to whom it concerns, refer the matter to the Diocesan Committee Safeguarding Officer who will then refer it to the Diocesan Safeguarding officer. If a Safeguarding issue arises, it is vital that a response is made within 24 hours, or immediately if someone is in danger

6. Training is provided by Mary Sumner House and should be undertaken by all Diocesan Committee members. Details of training undertaken should be recorded in the Minutes.

A flowchart is available to assist the referral process. **Appendix A**

MU Diocesan Safeguarding contacts are

Madeline Hellier: Madeline.Hellier@mothersunion.org

Safeguarding Contacts for the Diocese of Bath & Wells are based at

Flourish House, 2 Cathedral Ave., Wells, BA5 1FD. Tel No: 01749 670777.

Safeguarding Contact: www.bathandwells.org.uk/confidential-incidentconcern-form.php

- Manager – Ben Goodhind ben.goodhind@bathwell.anglican.org

Agreed by Diocesan Committee September 2025

To be reviewed: in March 2026 and annually thereafter

REMEMBER THE 5 R's OF SAFEGUARDING

1. Recognise - signs and symptoms of abuse, neglect, ill treatment.
2. Respond - you may need to respond to the disclosure or incident, so seek advice.
3. Record - information needs to be written down and captured.
4. Report - to the Diocesan Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the Safeguarding and Procedures Lead for Britain and Ireland. Seek advice, do not keep concerns to yourself.
5. Refer - A referral may need to be made to the statutory agencies, following discussion with the Diocesan Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the Safeguarding and Procedures Lead for Britain and Ireland. A copy of the referral form will need to be sent to the Church Diocesan Designated Safeguarding Adviser/Team.