

## BRIEFING ON WORSHIPPING AGREEMENTS

Context

8Sept 2020

The Safe Ministry to Children Canon 207 was adopted by the Diocese in October 2017 after being passed by General Synod in September 2017. It follows on from work done by General Synod in 2004 and again in 2014.

In the Canon, there are definitions provided including:

- Known Sex Offenders
- Person of Concern – is a person who is currently participating or wishes to participate in the life of a parish or congregation and whose presence constitutes a risk of harm from sexual abuse to others in the parish or congregation.

There are references to the Code of Conduct, known as Faithfulness in Service (FIS).

There are references to a Policy for Safe Ministry in a parish where there are risks regarding a person of concern

There are prescribed standards and guidelines for screening, training and safe ministry with Persons of Concern. This includes the requirement that prior to the inclusion of a known sex offender or person of concern it must be determined that the necessary preparations have been made and procedures and guidelines are in place to ensure no person is at risk of abuse.

### **The Director of Professional Standards will:**

- Complete a risk assessment and examine all aspects of risk management and mitigation with the individual concerned. This may include the use of a psychologist.
- The selection of a 'support or monitoring group' to ensure the person is protected and compliant, aware of any inconsistent behaviours and able to respond appropriately and report any breaches.
- Worshipping agreements are applied in cases where there are known offenders or persons of concern. On occasion there can be no attendance at the church and in those circumstances, the risk of attendance at home for the priest or others in the parish providing pastoral ministry is also assessed.
- The Director of Professional Standards will ensure the Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority (DSMA) Chairperson is kept advised of all worshipping agreements being implemented or in place and being maintained.
- The Diocesan Secretary or as advised, the DSMA Chairperson is responsible for ensuring key leaders are kept advised of any worshipping agreements during an interregnum and for briefing new clergy on commencing in a new parish.
- **If no worshipping agreement is in place the person cannot worship in the diocese. If the worshipping agreement is breached, the person cannot worship in the diocese unless the individual is prepared to review the worshipping agreement and have it strengthened and monitored and approved.**