



The National Safeguarding Team
Promoting a Safer Church

“...despite these very harrowing restrictions, please do all that you can to minister to your people safely, especially to the sick, the vulnerable and the poor. We must take a lead in showing our communities how we must behave in order to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus. We must also do all that we can to provide resources and support for those who are isolated, fearful and vulnerable. But we have to do this from our homes.” [The Archbishops of Canterbury and York](#)

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR LATEST UPDATES:

Click [here for the Church of England Safeguarding Website](#)

Click [here for specific safeguarding advice during Covid-19](#)

April 2020

Think Safeguarding!

Reach Out, Recognise, Record, Report

REACH OUT

During the current Covid-19 restrictions it is vital that we continue to safeguard those who need our help. If you have a pastoral or safeguarding role within the Church, consider how you may safely reach out to those who are isolated. Think about the families or individuals you know who may be finding this time particularly challenging and consider the ‘non-contact’ support that can be offered. If your Church is making phone calls to anyone you may be concerned about, consider these practical tips when calling:

- Ask who else is in the house or room*
- Ask what support they have for food, medicine and friendship
- Ask if they feel safe
- Encourage and promote ongoing social support with their friends and family.
- Offer any support available from the Church community, such as online services or virtual house groups (if appropriate).

*Some may not be able to speak freely if at home or accompanied by a family member. Consider the use of ‘closed questions’ (with a yes or no answer) when asking about safety.

The NSPCC has also produced some [helpful advice](#) about keeping children safe from harm during the COVID-19 restrictions, including what to look out for and questions to ask.

RECOGNISE, RECORD, REPORT

If you are worried about someone, contact your [Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser](#) (DSA) without delay.

- **Recognise** the signs;
- **Record** what you have been told or have observed accurately;
- **Report** immediately.

If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires medical attention, call the police and/or social services immediately
