

## COVENANT OF CARE FOR PARISHIONERS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This is a written agreement regarding the involvement in Church activities of:

\_\_\_\_\_

*(name)*

with

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Diocese/Religious Order)*

to facilitate him/her to worship, celebrate and to receive support whilst safeguarding children.

There is a place for each of us within the Church and we firmly believe that an individual's worth is far greater than their behaviour. For those who have offended against, or who are viewed as a potential risk to children young people or vulnerable adult that place will be only in areas unconnected with children's and youth activities.

The purpose of this Agreement is to:

- minimize any potential risk to children, young people and vulnerable adult
- to facilitate involvement in the Church/community;
- to promote an offence-free life.

The agreement will be reviewed regularly and will remain for an indefinite period. The commitment to manage this risk and live a positive and healthy life must be life-long. The Church is enthusiastic and committed to supporting any individual achieve this goal.

It is expected that the agreement is entered into in an honest manner and the support available is utilised in an active way.

If this agreement is not adhered to, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator will refer the matter to the Safeguarding Commission and will ensure that prompt action to protect children and young people is recommended to the Bishop/Congregation Leader.

**NB Where relevant, this agreement should include the statutory authorities e.g. National Probation Service and, where appropriate, the individual's family and partner who may also be attending Church and will seek to be informed.**

## 2. SAFE BEHAVIOUR

The subject of this agreement will:

- attend the following DESIGNATED SERVICES:

\_\_\_\_\_

at:

\_\_\_\_\_ Church,  
with:

- receive the Sacraments on Sundays and Holy Days at:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(details e.g. home);*

- make a choice to sit away from children in Church and take responsibility to remove himself/herself from any situation where a child sits next to him/her or accept that the above-named person will sit with him/her during Church services/activities. They will know he/she is a sex offender/registered with the police under the terms of the Sex Offender Act.
- choose to engage in activities where children are not involved i.e. adult only activity as opposed to children's activities and share the details with the Local Safeguarding Representative of all activities they participate in. discuss any invitation to parish activities or social functions as part of the life of the parish community or which are occurring on Church property with the Local Safeguarding Representative and attend only with the written agreement of the Local Safeguarding Representative.
- avoid being alone with children and young people and take responsibility as the adult for behaving appropriately and removing himself/herself immediately from any such unforeseen situations.

## 3. SUPPORT

In order to enable the subject of this agreement to safely participate in Church life and to promote their commitment to live an offence free life, the Church will:

- make available a person to discuss any issues relevant to this agreement

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(details of support person and nature of support to be offered).*

To facilitate the protection of children as well as to remove the possibility of him/her being wrongly suspected of abuse, the support person will share the details of the child protection concerns with

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(details of Safeguarding Co-ordinator/ Safeguarding Officer).*

To allow the subject of this agreement to safely participate in Church life s/he

undertakes to:

- use the support in an active, honest manner and attend the meetings with the support person named above;
- seek support at potentially risky times e.g. illegal fantasy, periods of loneliness (*insert as appropriate to individual*) so as to meet his/her needs in a positive and non abusive manner;
- obtain the written agreement of the support person to attend other Church services so that the information can be shared and the potential risk managed;
- inform the support person of any plans to move to a different location.

#### 4. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The Safeguarding Commission will review this agreement every \_\_\_\_ months (*frequency*), and will amend it so as to promote the welfare of children and to ensure adequate support is available.
- The date of the first review is: \_\_\_\_\_ (*date*).
- At any time during this period the subject of this agreement or a Church representative can request a meeting with the parish priest/Safeguarding Co-ordinator to address any perceived or actual breach of the agreement by either party.
- In the event of child protection concerns being identified, the Church may bar the subject of this agreement from attending Church in that parish, and in such circumstances will follow the Church's policy regarding informing the statutory authorities and any other relevant organisation.

#### 5. CONFIDENTIALITY

- The sensitive information contained in this agreement will be managed in an appropriate manner.
- I accept that contact will seek to be made with my \*Probation Officer, who will meet with Church representatives as and when necessary.  
(\*delete as appropriate)

**6. SIGNATURES**

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**PARISHIONER**

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**LOCAL SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE**

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR/SAFEGUARDING OFFICER FOR AND ON  
BEHALF OF THE SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION.**