

**“The health of a society may be judged by its
care and concern for its most vulnerable
members.”**

House of Bishops’ safeguarding policy

Authorised Listeners

Listening to Survivors of Abuse

The Diocese of Guildford is committed to responding sensitively and effectively to those who have come to harm within a church context.

cofeguildford.org.uk/safeguarding



Authorised Listeners: Listening to you

If you have been abused by anyone associated with the Church of England, we can put you in touch with an experienced listener who will listen with care and help you reflect on your situation.

What Authorised Listeners do

Listeners provide an attentive and attuned ear to assist you in talking about experiences in relation to present or past abuse.

The listener will help you to consider any next steps and support you in taking them. Next steps could include reporting abuse to a statutory agency, instigating disciplinary proceedings, or seeking counselling or pastoral support.

Where appropriate, and with your consent, the listener could enable referrals to be made to other professionals.

The Diocese has [two trained Authorised Listeners](#) with expertise and experience in listening to those with a lived experience of abuse in a church context

Confidentiality

Your confidentiality will be protected and information will only be shared with your express permission*.

*Exceptions

Information heard by a listener must be shared if:

- There is a risk of harm to the client and the client is deemed unable to protect themselves.
- There is a risk of harm to other people (including the Authorised Listener).

Authorised Listeners: Listening to survivors/victims of abuse

How can I speak to an Authorised Listener?

If you have experienced abuse (this doesn't have to be 'proven' or 'substantiated') from within the church community, you can seek a referral.

You can do so by contacting the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) directly or indirectly through your parish incumbent or parish safeguarding officer.

The DSA will contact you to ensure we offer the most appropriate listening provision for you.

The listener will inform the DSA when the service is no longer required and of any 'next steps' you have agreed that the Diocese needs to support.

You will initially be offered four sessions and if additional needs are identified, further help will be provided.



Contact details:

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For more details visit cofeguildford.org.uk/safeguarding