

HOW DOES CHURCH TRAINING DIFFER FROM OTHER TRAINING?

Safeguarding Training in a Church context

Safeguarding Training within Down and Connor needs to create and promote a culture of both respect and vigilance.

Training at all levels, must emphasise the importance of 'safe working practices' with an emphasis on making proper conduct at all times.

Responding appropriately to those who have experienced abuse

Training must equip leaders, staff, personnel and volunteers to respond sensitively and, in a timely manner to each person who comes forward to report abuse, and to balance that response with knowing how to take appropriate safeguarding action in order to protect others. Training should be open to the possibilities of abuse of adults and children by those in position of authority with the Church.

Safe working practice

Safe working practice is a central theme in all levels Church training. This is to ensure that all volunteers, and Church personnel know what to do if they have a concern about a child or adult, how to know when they should be concerned and, most importantly who to contact if they are concerned. Volunteers are committed to the work they undertake. It is the responsibility of the Safeguarding Office to ensure they are supported and confident to know what to do if they are concerned.

Recognising the needs of participants training

Training, sharing experience, and reflecting on the complex and challenging roles of volunteers should be a positive and enriching experience.

Volunteers should be supported and listened to during training to ensure that the training reflects their needs to equip them to do their job confidently and safely. Training should provide an opportunity to develop a trusted working relationship with colleagues, friends and volunteers. The aim of training is to foster a 'shared of responsibility' for safeguarding children and adults.

Referenced from: The Church of England, Practice guidance: Safeguarding Training and Development 2017