Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse

Parish of St. Mark's, Broomhill and Broomhall

Definition of Domestic Abuse
The cross-government definition of domestic abuse is: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse perpetrated by those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.

The Church recognises additional categories of neglect, spiritual and digital abuse.

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop.
We are committed to promoting and supporting safer environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- work to protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm; • recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- refuse to condone any form of abuse;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly, appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:
In all our activities –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst appreciating the need to ensure a distance is kept between the two and refusing to condone the perpetration or continuation of any form of abuse.

In our publicity –

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised –

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help; • working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.
- we will follow the guidelines as set out in Section 2 of the publication noted below.

In our care –

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;

• identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

This Statement is based on and should be read in conjunction with the Church of England publication "Responding well to domestic abuse – Policy and practice guidance" (Second Edition) from the House of Bishops.

A copy of this is available in St. Mark's safeguarding folder and is also available online at

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/responding-well-to-domestic-abuse-formatted-master-copy-030317.pdf

In particular you may wish to look at Appendix 1: "Domestic Abuse Fact Sheet" and Appendix 2: "The Legal Context".

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact:
Domestic Abuse Officer: Bek Hampson email a member of the clergy.

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:

Beth Keith Vicar

Stuart Bennett
Churchwarden

Frances Gray Churchwarden

Date: 15th September 2026
Review Date: September 2027

St Mark's Safeguarding Team
Incumbent: Revd Beth Keith
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Duncan Lennox m. 07422575765
Safeguarding Administrator /DBS Lead Recruiter: Hannah Jones
Domestic Abuse Officer: Bek Hampson via office@stmarksheffield.co.uk
Diocesan Safeguarding Team:
Siân Checkley, Safeguarding Adviser
07741 013775, **sian.checkley@sheffield.anglican.org** (Monday – Thursday)
Elina Penttila, Assistant Safeguarding Adviser
m. 07871 796682, **Elina.penttila@sheffield.anglican.org** (Monday – Friday)
Rachel Tankard, Assistant Safeguarding Adviser
07874 859062, **rachel.tankard@sheffield.anglican.org** (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am – 3pm)
Ven. David Gerrard, Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, **david.gerrard@sheffield.anglican.org**