

**ST BRANDON'S, BRANCEPETH**  
**POLICY FOR RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE**

Last updated: February 2019; approved by PCC: March 2019



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

- Ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- Protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- Recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- Enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

**We recognise that:**

- All forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the victim and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- All victims (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm and 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 victims and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic 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 victims, 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;

In our care:

- Ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child or adult who has suffered or is suffering abuse;
- Identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both victims and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact Deborah Hodge, 01388 745455 or 07791 241608, [deborah.hodge@hotmail.com](mailto:deborah.hodge@hotmail.com).**