



# **Policy Statement on Safer Recruitment including the recruitment of ex-offenders**

## **The Church of King Charles the Martyr Potters Bar**

**Created on:** 29 January 2020

**Reviewed by the PCC:** 27 July 2021, 20 July 2022, 12 July 2023

**Date of next review:** July 2024

**Signed:**

The Reverend Atalie Gaines (Vicar) on behalf of the PCC

Wednesday 12 July 2023

# **Policy Statement on Safer Recruitment**

The Church of England and we, at King Charles the Martyr Church in Potters Bar, are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults, and the care and nurture of them within our church communities.

- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with the principles of Safer Recruitment. We will respond without delay to every complaint made, that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and / or isolation.
- We will seek to protect survivors of abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of respect and responsibility, where they are trusted by others.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult who is vulnerable.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

September 2019

## **Safer Recruitment Training**

The following people have received Safer Recruitment Training to enable the safe recruitment of people into positions within the church:

1. The Revd Atalie Gaines - Vicar (Updated 2022)
2. Helen Schmitz – Safeguarding Officer (Updated 2022)
3. Steve Jones – Treasurer and Café (Updated 2022)
4. Maureen Townsend – Café (Updated 2022)

## **Policy Statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders**

1. King Charles the Martyr (KCM) complies fully with the House of Bishops practice guidance, Safer Recruitment 2016, when recruiting staff and volunteers. This includes using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where legally entitled to do so for roles which involve working with children or adults when they are vulnerable. In doing so, KCM complies fully with the DBS code of practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. This policy is made available to all applicants at the start of the recruitment process.
2. We will only ask an individual to provide details of convictions or cautions that we are legally entitled to know about. This means where the role is eligible for a DBS certificate at standard or enhanced level as set out in the practice guidance, Safer Recruitment 2016. This is also applicable where a Basic Disclosure is required for this role. Where we are in any doubt as to whether the role is eligible for a DBS certificate, or whether we are legally entitled to ask an individual about convictions and cautions, we will seek advice from our umbrella body Thirtyone:eight, who administer the DBS process on behalf of St Albans Diocese.
3. KCM is committed to fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background.
4. KCM actively promotes equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from a wide range of candidates, including those who have criminal records. All paid posts or voluntary roles in KCM will be risk assessed as to their eligibility for a DBS, in accordance with the House of Bishop's practice guidance, Safer Recruitment 2016. For those positions where a DBS is required, a confidential declaration as to whether there is any reason why the applicant should not be working with children or adults who may be experiencing abuse of neglect must be completed by the applicant as part of the application process. All application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that an application for a DBS certificate is required and that any offer of employment will be conditional on this being satisfactory.
5. At interview, or in a separate meeting, we will ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matters that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to a withdrawal of a conditional offer for the post/role.
6. We will make every person who is subject to a DBS aware of the existence of the DBS code of practice and make a copy available on request.
7. Whenever a confidential declaration form or DBS certificate indicates that the applicant has a criminal record, or has other information of concern, the details will be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser for consideration by the DSA, and in more complex

situations, the Diocesan DBS panel as to whether the criminal record is relevant to the applicant's suitability for the post/role. The DSA and the Diocesan DBS panel members are suitably trained in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders (for example, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) and to assess the relevance and circumstances of the offences.

8. KCM undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

This Policy will be reviewed annually.