

UNITED PARISH STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

United Parish of Speldhurst, Groombridge & Ashurst

Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must 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 (to include non-heterosexual relationships)
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently

We recognise that:

- abuse can be psychological/emotional/physical/sexual/financial/online/digital/harassment or stalking
- abuse is a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence
- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor (to include children who witness) and express an imbalance of power in the relationship
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or identity, racial or cultural heritage) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities and social hierarchy and is not based on socioeconomic factors
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any adult or child suffering abuse

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse
- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact: Reverend Douglas Wren 01892 862821 or Dawn Pottow, Safeguarding Officer 01892 861818

Signed:

Date: