

ann craft trust
acting against abuse

safeguarding adults

Safeguarding in faith groups session

The logo for St Philip's Centre is centered within a white circle that has a green border. The circle is set against a background of a green-to-white gradient and is surrounded by a pattern of small green dots that form a larger, faint circular shape. The logo itself consists of the text 'St Philip's Centre' in a bold, dark blue font, with the tagline 'living well together' in a smaller, lighter blue font below it. Two thin, curved lines in a light blue color arch over and under the text, with small dark blue dots at their ends.

St Philip's Centre
living well together

Introductions

Laura and Roisin



Revd Dr Tom Wilson



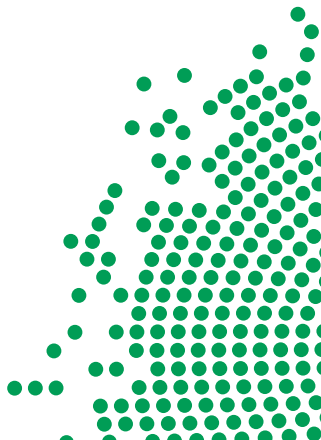
The Project



The project

- Why it was needed
- Content –basic safeguarding adults' awareness
- Case study explorations
- Focus on the importance of safe cultures
- Governance recommendations





The impact

- Interesting discussions of how safeguarding issues may arise in their settings
- Varying levels of knowledge
- Better understanding of safeguarding children
- Some policies in place
- Willingness to explore and learn
- Cultural considerations



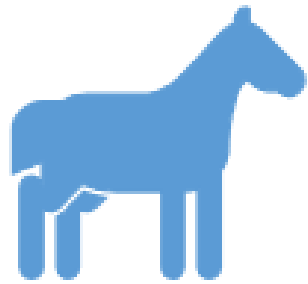
Activity time!

- How do community groups in general contribute to wellbeing and safeguarding?
- Ahmed lives alone and has mild learning disabilities; he struggles with social interaction and making friends and is quite isolated as a result.
- How can attending a faith setting benefit Ahmed?
- What does the faith setting need to have in place to support Ahmed?



Revd Dr Tom Wilson





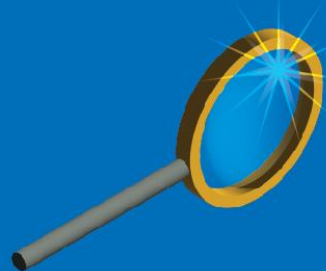
You can lead a horse to
water...



Cultural change is slow – but
real

St Philip's Centre
living well together

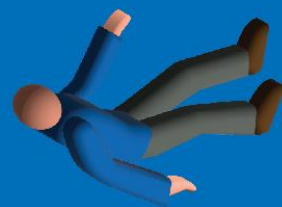
Learning from the past



Abuse and risk are **not always recognised**.



The huge and ongoing **impact of abuse** on those who have been harmed.



Abuse in church is a devastating **breach of trust**.



Further development of **listening skills** needed.



People in the church are still not responding well to **serious situations**.



Respectful uncertainty is difficult to put into practise.



Record keeping is still not **consistent** enough.



It remains hard to **respond well** to difficult safeguarding situations.



Effective working with other agencies still requires development.



Leaders do not understand **the significance** of safeguarding concerns.

Analysis of Focus Groups Key Points

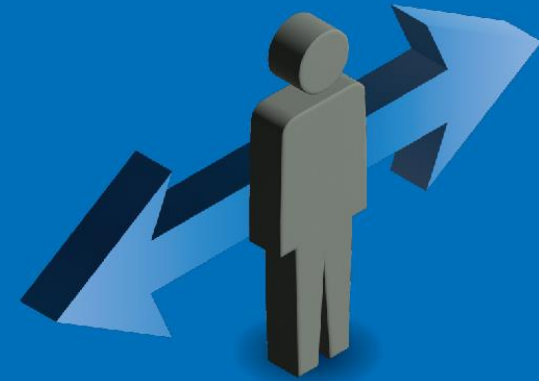
Spiritual abuse as
"divinified control."



The question of agency, responsibility to
report spiritual abuse, and the empowerment
of those who experience abuse.



There is a degree of subjectivity
to defining individual experience.



The illiteracy of statutory agencies.



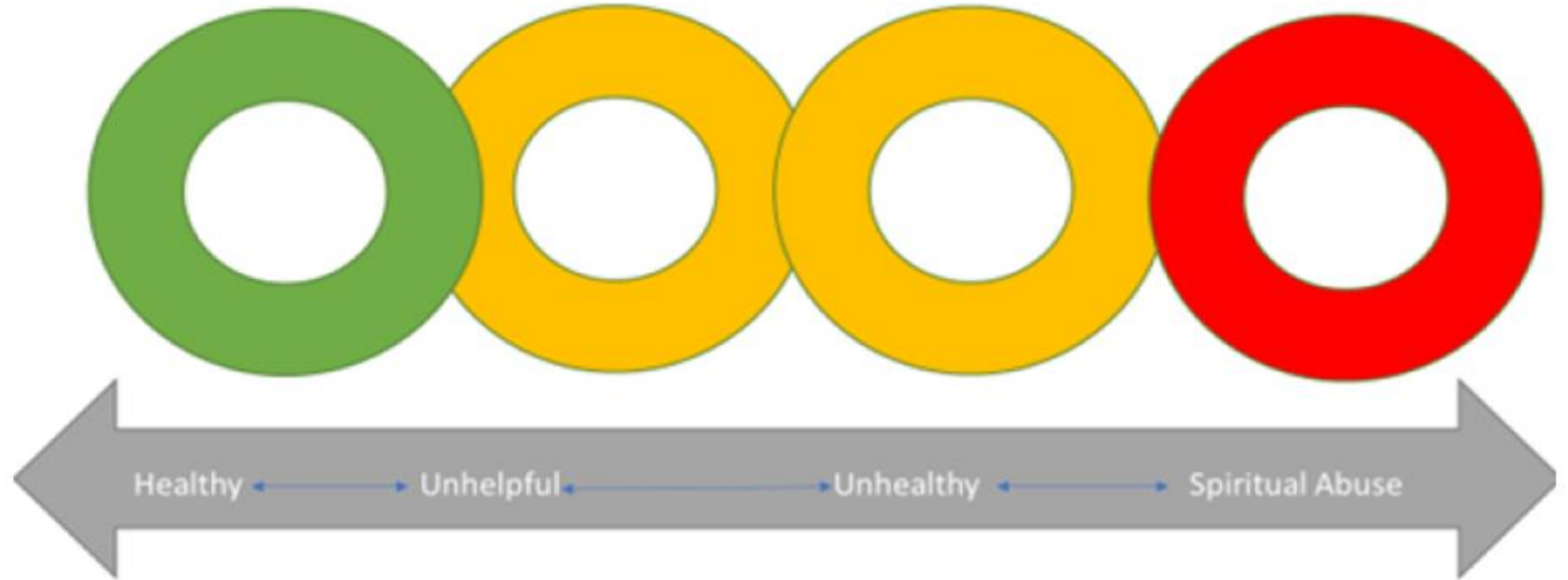
Creative education methods
would have a greater impact.



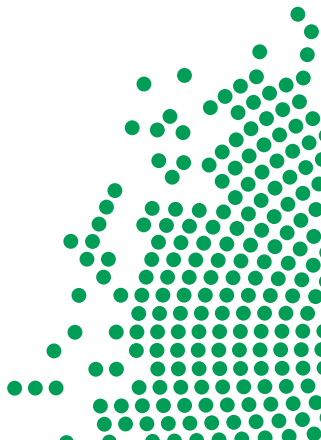
Activity

What goes where?

A spectrum of behaviour



1. Publicly rebuking an adult who hasn't memorised a scripture verse.
2. Giving sweets to a child who has memorised scripture.
3. Telling a teenager that they can only be friends with people of their religion and gender.
4. Telling a twelve-year-old off for using WhatsApp during a service.
5. Expecting a mentee to report what films they're watching.
6. Publicly praising a generous donor.
7. Admitting personal struggles with anger management in a sermon.
8. Publicly sharing someone's personal medical details so people know how to pray for them.
9. Putting photos of people taken during a service on your personal social media account.
10. Buying copies of a book on spiritual disciplines and giving them to people who you think would benefit from reading it.



What are the benefits of effective safeguarding procedures and cultures in all community groups?

- **Reputational integrity**
- **Trust in your organisation**
- **People will feel safe**
- **People will feel valued and respected**
- **Everyone has a duty of care**
- **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**
- **Everyone has a role to play in keeping each other safe**



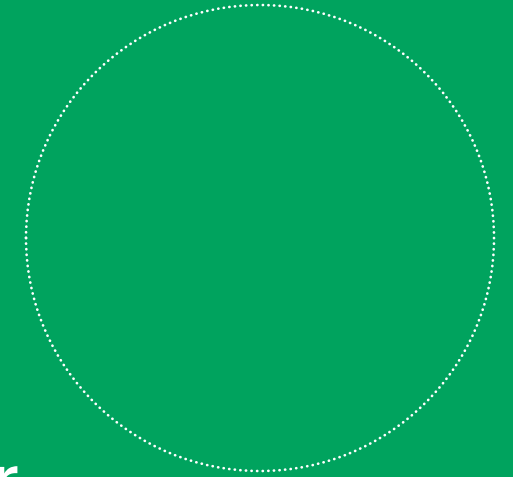
Further resources

[4.2 Spiritual Abuse | The Church of England](#)

[St Phillip's Centre - Living Well Together - Leicester](#)

[Safeguarding in faith communities | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Safeguarding people in faith communities - SCIE](#)



Safeguarding is Everyone's Business



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