

## PARISH POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Cockerton has adopted a policy for children and youth work in the parish for the benefit and protection of children, young people and those working with them and this Church Council. The policy commits the parish:

1. To maintain a register of children/youth leaders authorized by the Church Council
2. To maintain DBS and Reference records of all leaders and occasional helpers with access to children and young people.
3. To appoint volunteers in accordance with the Diocese of Durham's Safer Recruitment guidelines
4. To acknowledge that being convicted, cautioned or bound over for a criminal offence does not automatically debar an individual from working with children or young people.
5. To provide as safe and welcoming an environment as possible for children and young people who take part in the life of the Church.
6. To provide adequate insurance cover for leaders, participants and third parties.
7. To maintain records of Information and Permission forms, and Health and Parents' Consent forms, and to authorise children/youth programmes and activities carried out on behalf of the Church Council on a regular basis
8. To identify an independent person who is named and accessible to all in contact with the Church.
9. To ensure that groups who are not part of the Church but hire the Community Centre for activities are asked if they have DBS checks, adequate Insurance and a Child Protection Policy and to see evidence of this. If a group does not have a Child Protection Policy, to require that they adopt the Diocesan policy.

Copies of the full Safeguarding Parish Policy for Children, which is revised and adopted annually by the Parochial Church Council is available in the drawer in the wooden table in the narthex

This church currently appoints **Gemma Hammond** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Incumbent .....

Date: February 5, 2019