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Hoskins body was found at the base of the St Austell railway viaduct. He was terrified of heights and had been made to walk to the viaduct where he was forced over the safety rail and made to fall 30 metres to his death by Sarah Bullock kicking his face and standing on his hands.

If you have concerns or need advice, you can contact:

- Sue McCaughan on 01243 584112
- Colin Perkins (Bishop's Advisor for Safeguarding) on 01273 425792
- Social Services Safeguarding Team on 01243 642121
- Sussex Police on 101

Sue McCaughan
Adults' Safeguarding Officer
for the Clymping, Yapton & Ford Group of Churches

- **Angela Stewart is the person responsible for Child Protection matters in the Benefice and can be contacted on 01243 552644**

Safeguarding & Protecting Vulnerable Adults



As part of the responsible Church community, we all need to have an awareness of and know what to do if we have concerns that an individual is being abused.

My personal knowledge of this subject comes from many years of working in Health and Social Care environments and dealing with situations involving abuse.

The 2011 Diocesan Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding policy - Best Practice, provides guidance for parishes. The Benefice policy is in line with recommendations made in this document.

Who is a vulnerable adult?

The definition of a vulnerable adult is:

A person aged 18 years or over, who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself from harm or abuse.

I consider this to be any one of us at any time of our lives.

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What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding adults is about protecting those at risk of harm (vulnerable adults) from suffering abuse or neglect. Abuse can happen anywhere. It can happen at home, in a residential or nursing home, in a hospital, at work or in the street.

Safeguarding adults includes:

Protecting their rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect;
People and organisations working together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect, and to stop them from happening; making sure people's wellbeing is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account

Types of abuse

Abuse can take many forms such as:

Hitting, slapping or pushing, shouting or swearing which makes the person afraid, unwanted touching, kissing or sexual intercourse, money or property taken without consent or under pressure, not being cared for properly or denied privacy, choice or social contact

Who can Abuse?

Family, Friends, Neighbours, Informal carers, Paid carers, Strangers

Possible indicators of abuse

Physical Abuse

Series of unexplained falls or major injuries, injuries/bruises at different stages of healing, bruising in unusual places e.g. inner arms, thighs, abrasions, teeth damage, injuries to head or face, passitivity.

Financial Abuse

Bills not being paid, lack of food, basic needs not being met, lack of cash on day to day basis.

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Neglect

Includes acts of omission, ignoring physical or medical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, withholding necessities of life e.g. medications, nutrition, heating, absence of food, heat, hygiene, clothing, comfort, preventing access to services, isolation, absence of prescribed medication.

Emotional Abuse

Withdrawal, depression, cowering and fearfulness, change in sleep pattern, agitation, confusion, change in behaviour, change in appetite/weight, ignoring spiritual needs.

Sexual Abuse

Change in behaviour, overt sexual behaviour or language, difficulty in walking, sitting, injuries to genital and/or anal area.

Everyone has the right to live in safety, free from *abuse* and neglect.

And this is why we need to be aware!

Steven Hoskins was a 39 year old man with mild learning disabilities who was subjected to harrowing abuse ending in his death in St Austell, Cornwall on 6th July 2006. He had a troubled history, had experienced a significant amount of bullying and discrimination in his life and needed support to live in the community.

Hoskins was placed in a bed-sit by adult social care in April 2005 and he was allocated two hours of help each week but he chose to cancel the service in August and by September the council closed his case. Hoskins then lost all control over his life when Darren Stewart and his girlfriend Sarah Bullock moved in and began to manipulate and abuse him – just prior to his death he was forced to swallow lethal doses of paracetamol, hauled around his bed-sit by a dog collar and burned with cigarettes.

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