

NDAR Protocol

Protocol for Safeguarding Matters for bell ringers within the Norwich Diocese - Relationship between the Bishop's Advisor for Safeguarding and the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers (NDAR).

The safeguarding of young persons and vulnerable adults in the Diocese of Norwich is ultimately the responsibility of the Bishop's Advisor for Safeguarding, but the particular nature and organisation of bellringing in the diocese adds another layer of safeguarding interest which has a role in keeping ringing safe for all, as outlined below.

The NDAR – whose Patron is the Bishop of Norwich - is organised as a charity (registered with the Charities Commission), with a constitution, rules of membership, and a safeguarding policy in respect of young people under 18 and vulnerable adults. Ringing is an activity which is enjoyed by people from a wide age range, from around 9 or 10 years to the eighth or ninth decade, in some instances. Ringing is both a very sociable and inclusive activity whilst at the same time taking place somewhat separately from the everyday life of a church, the bells usually being rung in towers unseen by those in the main body of the church. It is therefore essential that there is a clear safeguarding policy properly adhered to, for all NDAR ringers, regardless of the membership status of those with whom they are ringing. Potential risks will usually be apparent to other ringers before other members of the church community. These reasons underline the importance of good communication between the Bishop's Advisor for Safeguarding and the Safeguarding Officer(s) of the NDAR. It is appropriate for the Bishop's Advisor to seek the assistance of a responsible body which knows and understands the culture of bell ringing.

It is agreed that the NDAR will work to support the Bishop's Advisor for Safeguarding by keeping her/him informed of potential risks or concerns amongst the ringing community which in the judgement of the NDAR's Safeguarding Officer(s) may create circumstances in which children could be in danger.

Similarly, if the Bishop's Advisor receives information concerning safeguarding issues of relevance to bell ringers in the diocese s/he will inform the NDAR's Safeguarding Officers and may seek further information from them.

If the Bishop's Advisor concludes that any further action is necessary s/he will keep the NDAR's Safeguarding Officer(s) informed of this and if appropriate, will involve them in such action. This is likely to include on-going sharing of information and a partnership in agreements relating to individual bell ringers who are identified as posing a risk.

The over-arching purpose of this protocol is to keep bell ringing in the Norwich Diocese a safe and rewarding activity for all who participate in it.