

## Chryston Parish Church

### Kirk Session Meeting

November 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

### Safeguarding Co-ordinator's Report

#### 1. Volunteer's resignation

- a. Nonie Hogg resigned from X Groups 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025. This requires to be recorded in the Minutes of the Kirk Session since this is a regulated role.
- b. Since Nonie was involved in no other regulated activity Safeguarding Service has been informed that she should be removed from our PVG Register.

#### 2. Implications

- a. Nearly five weeks were lost while several people discussed suggestions at various levels. The level of work associated with this was completely disproportionate to the problem and as a result it is imperative that, from now on, we try to make everything as watertight as possible.
- b. Safeguarding has become incredibly complicated and is only going to get worse. It is vital that we meet our Church of Scotland Safeguarding obligations, and, hence, meet all insurance requirements. This means that we must use the correct forms, ensure deadlines are met and events are planned and advertised well in advance to allow for PVGs to be applied for.
- c. Leaders who are organising activities should check with Mhairi to assess whether they are regulated, i.e. for a targeted group of children or protected adults to ensure volunteers have an appropriate PVG.

#### 3. Audit

- a. At the September Kirk Session meeting, it was reported that it is expected that the audit of Safeguarding within each congregation will become more intense. I asked for elders to consider volunteering for the task. To date there have been no volunteers.

#### 4. Interviews for regulated roles

- a. Again, at the last meeting elders were reminded that, in order to comply with our insurance, an interview / chat with prospective volunteers must be carried out by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and others if necessary, and recorded. There may be instances where a formal interview is considered to be more appropriate but, in the vast majority of cases a less formal chat is sufficient. Records require to be kept, and this would be evidence for our audit, proving that we were adhering to the Safeguarding instructions.

***Does the Session agree that we can rely on informal interviews but where a formal interview is necessary, an elder can be drafted in to help?***

## 5. Training

- a. No volunteer can take up their post until they have completed their Introductory Safeguarding Training. Several volunteers have not yet been trained which means that, although they have a PVG, they cannot start volunteering. All have been reminded and sent links on several occasions.

## 6. Safeguarding Panel

- a. Many thanks to Mary Fleming for her years of service and support within the Safeguarding Panel. Mary has stepped back, and it is right that the Session acknowledges her work in this area.

## 7. Current applications

- a. Normal day-to-day work of Safeguarding was delayed while the issue outlined in 1. above we dealt with. We have:
  - i. two applicants going through the PVG process
  - ii. two volunteers who are applying for Level 1 Disclosure
  - iii. two applicants whose applications have been cancelled because of the applicants' lack of response to Disclosure Scotland
  - iv. seven applicants who have a PVG but have not yet completed training

## 8. PVGs: time limited

- a. Disclosure Scotland has announced that PVGs will become time limited in April 2026
- b. All PVGs will require to be renewed if they were issued more than 5 years ago.
- c. This will be done as a rolling programme – more details will be sent out when available from Disclosure Scotland

## 9. Job Descriptions

- a. Christmas Unwrapped (will be added to Elders' section of website soon)
- b. Pastoral Care (will be added to Elders' section of website soon)
- c. Hub Kids (this has changed to a non-regulated event which requires the Job Description to be changed. This will be added to Elders' section of the website soon)
- d. In-service Fitness Day

Mhairi Moore

30/10/2025