LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Domestic Abuse Policy

The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) of Locking Castle Church affirms that all forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop.

We are committed to promoting a safe environment where:

- everyone feels welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- those vulnerable to domestic abuse are protected from actual or potential harm;
- equality is valued amongst people and within relationships;
- concerns can be raised easily and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity has the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse witnessed or overheard by a child is also a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

On our website –

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised –

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can be offered safety and informed help;
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care –

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone about issues relating to domestic abuse please contact Andy Pearce 07956 097310