What do you need to do in a Parish?

Drawing on the policy statement, the table below summarises what a Parish needs to have in place (this can be adapted for other church bodies):

**Summary guidance on domestic abuse for parishes**

**Do:**

* •  PCC to agree a parish domestic abuse statement including who to contact if there are concerns (see Appendix 5 for template Parish statement);
* •  Appoint a named individual who is a point of contact for any advice and support. This may be the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO);
* •  Follow the process on how to respond to concerns about domestic abuse (see Section 2). *If parishes are in any doubt as to what action to take they should refer to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA).*
* •  Support those in leadership positions, pastoral and safeguarding roles to engage in Diocesan domestic abuse training.
* •  Consider the best place to display the domestic abuse statement including information about helplines and local services.
* •  Discuss domestic abuse in appropriate contexts such as marriage preparation (see Appendix 8 for good practice guidance).
* •  Challenge inappropriate comments and behaviour by church members.

**Recommended good practice:**

* •  Encourage leaders and those who preach to speak against domestic abuse in teaching, sermons, prayers and parish magazines - remember that many of the congregation may have a personal experience.
* •  Offer some awareness raising activities e.g. invite speakers from local domestic abuse agencies, organise an activity around 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women)
* •  Consider including activities around healthy relationships within activities for children and young people.
* •  Develop links with any local domestic abuse organisations.
* •  Organise courses in parenting and confidence-building.