**National Safeguarding Team update May 2022**

**Domestic Abuse training and PCC Members**
One of the issues which has been raised recently is the requirement that PCC members complete the domestic abuse training module. Some PCC members feel that the module is an excessive demand on their time given their other responsibilities. This matter will now be discussed at the July NSSG meeting. We will be seeking the views of DSAs on this matter before then. In the meantime, the following facts might be useful in your local discussions:

1. The requirement that PCC members partake in the domestic abuse training is contained in the Church’s Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework, which was approved by the National Safeguarding Steering Group in April 2021. The Framework is formal House of Bishops Safeguarding Guidance.
2. Domestic abuse is such a major form of abuse across society – including within the Church. Figures from diocesan safeguarding audits show that in 2019 and 2020 domestic abuse and sexual abuse were the forms of abuse with the highest numbers of reported concerns / allegations in respect of adults. 20% of all safeguarding concerns / allegations about adults concerned domestic abuse in 2020 (19% for sexual abuse).
3. PCC members can offer real leadership in respect of domestic abuse – and victims of domestic abuse need champions. House of Bishops Guidance on “Roles and Responsibilities” states that the PCC “has the responsibility, along with the incumbent to promote the mission of God in its parish.” It goes on to say “The PCC and the incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in their church community. In terms of safeguarding, with the incumbent the PCC will promote a safer church for all in the church community, and ensure there is a plan in place to raise awareness of, promote training and ensure that safeguarding is taken seriously by all those in the church community.”

In terms of time commitment, the requirements of PCC members is that they complete Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training within six months of starting in role. After that they need to complete the domestic abuse module within the next 30 months. This works out to an average of 1.5 safeguarding training per annum.