

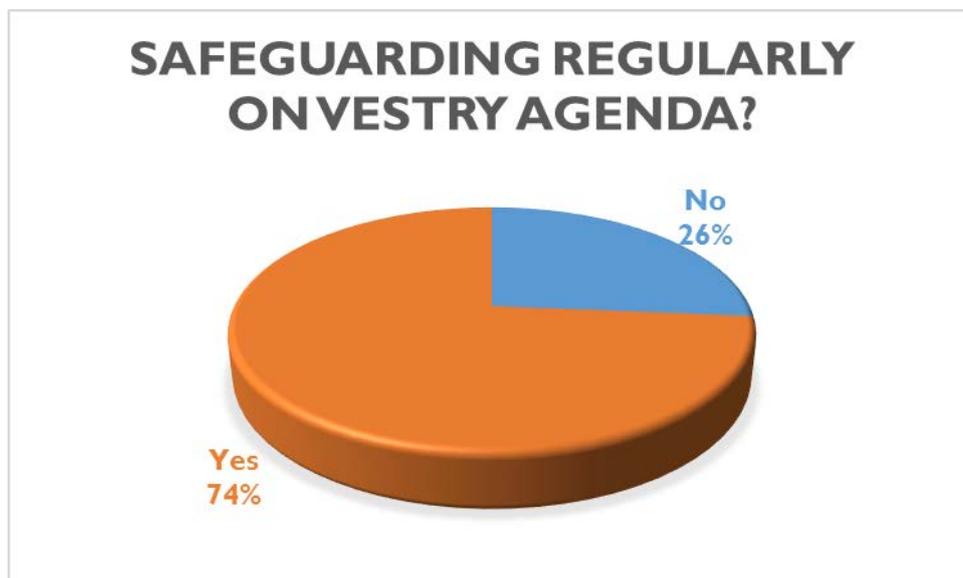
SAFEGUARDING Annual Report 2018



Along with all the other annual diocesan forms, a PVG Annual Checklist was issued to PVG Coordinators in all charges. This asks for various confirmations, such as whether contact information for raising concerns was being publicly displayed, and the regularity of safeguarding being included on Vestry agendas.

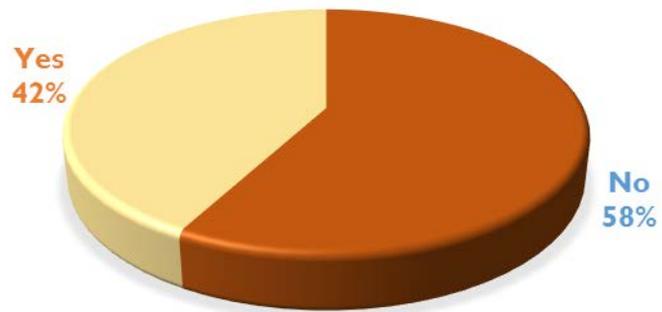
I am very grateful to all the PVG Coordinators, who take on this critical coordination work voluntarily. Nevertheless, it remains a whole-Vestry responsibility, and the PVG Coordinator is just that – the coordinator.

At the time of compiling this report, the return rate of those forms was 69% (2017: 82%) with **17 charges not submitting a return**. This, inevitably, leads to safeguarding concerns in those charges, and they will be followed up by the Dean and the Diocesan Protection Officer. Key concerns from these 38 returns are:

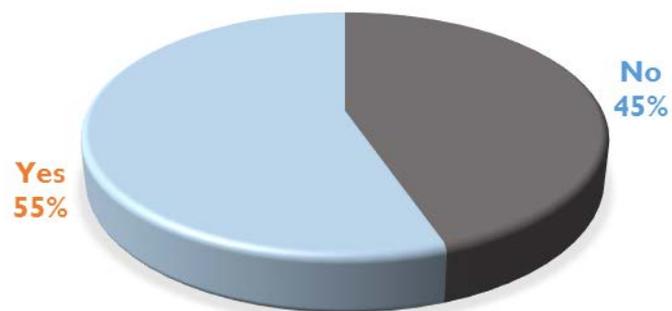


This needs to be a regular item, partly to give the opportunity for issues to have a ready place to be reported but, perhaps more importantly, to keep it as a 'live' issue for all vestries, and to maintain the awareness of its importance.

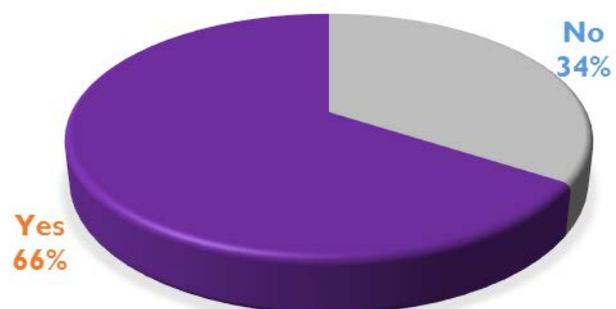
REGULATED WORK EMPLOYER IDENTIFIED?



REGISTER OF WORK/TRUST POSITIONS?



JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR WORK/TRUST POSITIONS?



This evidence raises concerns, either that there is a lack of training for PVG Coordinators and Vestry members and/or a lack of understanding. In either case, it indicates a problem across the diocese, which could lead to Safeguarding incidents occurring and not being identified or correctly dealt with.

This is an area where we need to demonstrate sound practice right across the SEC.

Few people will be unaware of the impact of the child abuse cases in other denominations, and of the vulnerability of certain groups of people, such as the housebound, and of our responsibilities for safeguarding them. The need to infuse awareness and good practice remains a key objective within the SEC and within the diocese. We are, perhaps, fortunate not to have had any 'full' cases to deal with in recent years, but a number of matters have required my involvement over the last 12 months, which is a constant reminder of the importance of Safeguarding practice.

The Provincial website has some valuable information and resources for those involved in Safeguarding, and we encourage you to view what is available:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/safeguarding/>

Charges are reminded that the appointment of a new PVG Coordinator has to be approved by the Bishop, via the Diocesan Protection Officer.

We have dealt with 2 cases within the diocese in 2018.

Simon Filsell
Diocesan Protection Officer