

Survivor Support Scheme

This guidance is published to ensure that where appropriate, survivors of abuse associated with the Church in Wales, are supported practically and financially to access support they need, when they need it. This is not a compensation or redress scheme and is not intended as reparation for abuse that has occurred.

Eligibility

An individual can access funding via this process when:

- Based on the information available, it is believed that the individual is a survivor of Church-related abuse, and
- that there is a need for support that is considered to have arisen as a result of Church-related abuse, and
- some financial assistance is required to enable the survivor to access that support.

NB - Church-related abuse is defined as abuse perpetrated in the context of the institutions which, at the time of the abuse, were part of The Church in Wales. It is abuse perpetrated, for example, by those who at the relevant time held ministerial office in the Church or where the abuse happened in a Church in Wales place of worship or in the context of the Church's activities. It is not intended to include abuse which happened outside the Church's direct activities.

Scope

Emergency, short and medium term funding can be granted through this process. Emergency support can be provided of up to £2,000 whilst a fuller application and decision making process is required for funding of short and medium term support. The level of funding agreed will be determined on a case by case basis.

It is understood that the needs of each survivor will be different and therefore this guidance does not intend to be prescriptive in nature, but based on assessed need. The support that can be funded includes, but is not confined to, counselling, addiction support, housing support, family and relationship support, employment support.

Process

There are three key stages to the application process.

- 1) Application and assessment of need
- 2) Decision Making Panel
- 3) Review

Application and assessment

An application form (appendix 1) is completed. Assistance can be provided to the survivor to complete the form. This will be provided either by a member of the PST or can be undertaken by Safe Spaces, if the survivor prefers not to engage directly with the Church in Wales.

Applications for short and medium term support, should where possible, have a supporting assessment from a relevant professional. If counselling is requested, initially a therapeutic assessment may be funded and subsequent funding agreed on the basis of the assessed need.

For emergency applications the form itself is sufficient.

Decision Making Panel

A survivor support panel will sit on a quarterly basis to consider applications. The Panel will include, as a minimum, the Director of Safeguarding (chair), Chief Executive (or a representative); a member of Safeguarding Committee; an independent expert to represent survivor voices. The independent expert will be a person who does not hold any other paid or voluntary appointment in the Church in Wales.

The Panel will hear various representations. The relevant Provincial Safeguarding Officer will present the case to the panel. The survivor is able to make written or oral representation to the panel, either personally or via a representative/advocate. The Diocesan Bishop (or their representative) will have opportunity to make representation regarding funding in response to applications.

The Panel will then consider the application during a closed session and communicate the decision to the representatives for the survivor and diocesan bishop.

The survivor may appeal a decision of the Panel to the Provincial Safeguarding Panel for further consideration and recommendation.

Review

The Decision Making Panel will set an appropriate review period. A review report should be completed in partnership with the survivor (appendix 2) and provided to the Panel to consider any required ongoing funding.

Emergency Applications

Where it is understood that:

There is a significant risk of harm if support is not given prior to the next meeting of the Panel; and

the survivor has no other available provision of support,

an emergency application can be made by completing the application form (appendix 1).

A Decision Making Panel will be convened within 3 working days. Panel members who are unable to attend will be asked to express their views to the Chair in advance of the Panel discussion.

Counselling

It is acknowledged that counselling is one of the most frequently requested forms of survivor support. When considering applications for therapeutic support the following considerations should be made:

- In many areas, specialist counselling can be accessed free of charge for abuse survivors. These should be considered in the first instance;
- Whilst it is important that a survivor should have a choice of therapist and therapeutic method, it is also appropriate to consider the efficacy of any particular therapeutic model requested. The NICE guidelines and appropriate research may assist. The BACP also provide helpful descriptions of various therapies: [Types of counselling and psychotherapy \(bacp.co.uk\)](http://bacp.co.uk)

In the event of an ongoing criminal investigation, or where this is likely, any therapeutic support must follow pre-trial guidelines. However, as outlined in the Crown Prosecution Service's pre-trial

guidance, “therapy should not be delayed for any reason connected with a criminal investigation or prosecution.” This means that therapeutic support for victims and survivors can be prioritised even during police investigations - legal advice should be sought and the police consulted.

[Pre-Trial Therapy | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/pre-trial-therapy)

The decision to end therapeutic support should be taken at a pre-agreed review period. The review must include the survivor’s views of their needs and the assessment of the therapist. (see appendix 2).

Appendix 1 – Survivor Support Application Form

Applicant full name			
Date of birth			
Address			
Contact Details (tel. and email)			
Church in Wales contact person			
Date of Application			
Brief Summary of Church related abuse			
Current status of any investigations			
Support Being requested	Rationale for support	Cost	

Any Supporting Evidence or information (not required for emergency applications but should be provided for short and medium term support)		
Signature of applicant		Date:
Signature of PSO		Date:

Panel decision (include rationale to explain decision)	
Agreed Review Date	
Signature of Panel Chair	
Date:	

Appendix 2 – Survivor Support Scheme Review Form

Applicant full name			
Church in Wales contact person			
Date of Original Application (attach copy)			
Date of any previous Reviews (attach copy)			
Date of current review application			
Brief Summary of support provided to date and its effectiveness.			
Current status of any investigations			
Support Being requested	Rationale for support	Cost	
Any Supporting Evidence or information (not required for emergency applications but should be provided for short and medium term support)			

Panel decision (include rationale to explain decision)	
Agreed Review Date	
Signature of Panel Chair	
Date:	