

## **PRESS RELEASE**

1 November 2007

### **PAST VICTIMS OF ABUSE SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR C of E CHILD ABUSE REVIEW BUT SHOULD COME FORWARD NOW, SAYS CCPAS**

The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) today welcomed the Church of England's announcements concerning the proposed Review of past child abuse concerns, but emphasised that anyone with information should come forward now, not wait for the Review. CCPAS therefore calls on Dioceses to ensure that sufficient publicity is given to the review process, so that people who may have suffered abuse in the past, or who are aware of such issues involving other people, begin supplying information as soon as possible.

David Pearson, Executive Director of CCPAS, commented "Since the recent CofE announcement our helpline has received calls from alleged victims of past abuse. We recognise the important role for CCPAS and any other independent organisations with expertise in this area to help people to come forward as often people have not wanted to contact the church or statutory bodies directly.

"The Church of England has made a great stride forward with the Review; however, its success will also depend on the public having sufficient confidence in the Independent Reviewer who will be appointed by each bishop to review past case files.

"It is vital to find out whether there are still people in positions of responsibility

who pose a threat to children. And secondly, any victims of past abuse need to be assured that they will see justice.

“As far as the individual Dioceses are concerned it will be very important that the process is done and dusted within the proposed 18 month time frame. This is so that anyone who has suffered abuse can draw a line under the issue, and able to move on with their lives and for the Church to be able to do this too..”

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

CCPAS is an independent Christian charity providing professional child protection advice and support across church denominations and organisations throughout the UK.

CCPAS was established in 1977. It assists churches, organisations, social services and other child care agencies as well as individual children and families by:

- helping churches and other organisations adopt safe practice in order to protect children from abuse – and youth workers from the possibility of false allegations
- advising on individual cases, giving ongoing help to leaders and others.
- training across the UK and providing “in-house” training and other resources
- acting as external consultants to denominational/organisational child protection advisors
- counselling individual adults or children about past or present abuse.

[www.ccpas.co.uk](http://www.ccpas.co.uk)