



# Safeguarding Update For Diocesan Synod March 2024

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# Review of the Independent Safeguarding Board

*A complex matrix of reasons led to the termination of the ISB contracts. The structural reasons for the termination were principally the responsibility of the Archbishops' Council. The short-term reasons were principally the responsibility of the original ISB members and the Archbishops' Council, **all trying to operate in a situation where their roles were not clearly defined***

***“The set up of any new safeguarding body must not be rushed.....”***

Sarah Wilkinson, Barrister, Nov 2023

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/isb-review-report-30-november-2023.pdf>

# Terms of Reference for the Jay Report

- ▶ To provide options and recommendations for forming an independent safeguarding scrutiny body for the Church of England
- ▶ To make any recommendations for how further independence of safeguarding might be achieved
- ▶ To make any other recommendations that are necessary or appropriate

# Future of Church Safeguarding Report

## February 2024

“Overall, Church safeguarding falls below the standards expected and set in secular organisations. We concluded that the only way in which this can be addressed is by making safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults truly independent of the Church. **Further tinkering with existing structures will not be sufficient to make safeguarding in the Church consistent, accountable and trusted by those who use its services**”

Professor Alexis Jay CBE

# Future of Safeguarding Report

## Key Recommendations

- **the creation of the two independent safeguarding charities - one to deliver operational safeguarding and the other to scrutinise it**
- **legally binding requirements for church institutions to refer all safeguarding cases to these new charities**
- **the mandatory implementation of safeguarding decisions made by these charities**
- **funded by the Church but with complete structural separation to ensure safeguarding is truly independent**

# The Jay and Wilkinson Reports Response Group

## Terms of Reference

- ▶ The purpose of the Response Group is to oversee wider engagement and further reflection regarding both Reports in order to brief the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG) and then advise the House of Bishops and the Archbishops' Council.
- ▶ The response to these reports will then be presented to General Synod for debate.
- ▶ [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/jay-wilkinson-response-group-tor-feb2024\\_-iii.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/jay-wilkinson-response-group-tor-feb2024_-iii.pdf)

# Jay and Wilkinson Report Response Group

*Joanne Grenfell, lead safeguarding bishop explained at Synod*

*“The aim of the response group described in your paper is to help us work through the hard choices involved in responding to these strong sets of recommendations to separate the delivery and scrutiny of safeguarding from the structures of the Church. Any recommendations from the response group will then come back to you, Synod, for decision.*

*This is urgent work. It is not straightforward. But it deserves thorough, balanced, courageous, and open-hearted consideration, to help us together to reach a place where the Church can be both safe and trusted”*

# IICSA 1 & 8 Project

## **IICSA Recommendation 1: The structure of safeguarding in the Church of England**

“The Church of England should create the role of a diocesan safeguarding officer to replace the diocesan safeguarding adviser. Diocesan safeguarding officers should have the authority to make decisions independently of the diocesan bishop in respect of key safeguarding tasks....”

“Diocesan safeguarding officers should be employed locally, by the Diocese Board of Finance. The diocesan safeguarding officer’s work should be professionally supervised and quality assured by the National Safeguarding Team. The National Safeguarding Team should set the broad requirements for anyone applying to be a diocesan safeguarding officer.....”



## IICSA Recommendation 8

“The Church of England should continue independent external auditing of its safeguarding policies and procedures, as well as the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in dioceses, cathedrals and other Church organisations. Audits should continue to be conducted regularly and reports should continue to be published”

# As you reflect on the last 5 years.....

- 1) Have you seen any improvements in the overall safeguarding arrangements in the diocese. If so can you give some examples
- 2) How confident are you that if an individual approached someone in your parish -whether a member of clergy, lay minister, member of the PCC, choirmaster and shared some information with them which could be of a safeguarding concern that they would receive an appropriate response? What would you expect this response to be? If you are not confident, what could be done to change this?
- 3) In bullet points, please list 3 strengths and 3 areas which you think as a diocese we could improve on as we seek to make the Diocese of Worcester as safe as possible for all who enter.

(Please hand in the papers before you leave - you can remain anonymous if you would prefer!)

## Let us use this audit to:

- a) Showcase what we know we do well as a Diocese and Cathedral
- b) Be open about the areas we know we want to improve on
- c) Make the most of this opportunity to receive independent recommendations to help us continually improve our safeguarding arrangements
- d) Encourage us all in our various parishes and teams to do some 'spring cleaning' and checking of processes.

There is nothing like an audit to keep people focused!

# Contacting the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

- ▶ New landline number which will direct your call to the appropriate safeguarding adviser's mobile 01905 732 800
- ▶ Or email [safeguardingadvice@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingadvice@cofe-worcester.org.uk)
- ▶ If you have concerns about the immediate safety of someone please don't delay in ringing the Police on 999 or Children or Adult Services
- ▶ Website address <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/safeguarding>