



Safeguarding Newsletter – January 2023

New Year, new goals

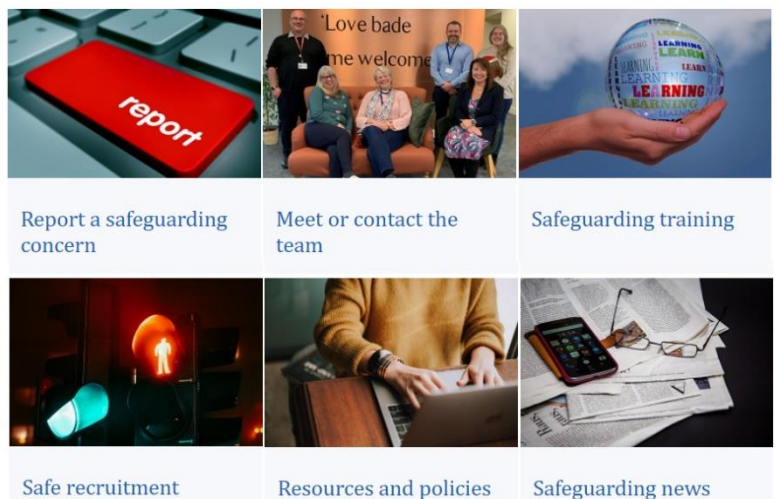
I would like to start by wishing everyone a very happy new year. I do hope it is a year of much happiness for you all. From a Safeguarding Perspective we are launching a 3-year Safeguarding Strategy to continue to develop and improve the service we offer. Across all workstreams from Safer Recruitment, Training, Casework and responding to concerns we are setting ambitious objectives to create a modern and impactful provision. I'm sure you would have noticed a lot of changes over the past year both from a staffing and service provision and we will continue to do all we can to support you all.

Change of contact details for Ben Goodhind Safeguarding Manager

A reminder that I no longer use my work mobile so please contact me via 01749 588917. I now have an app so that this number will reach me wherever I am. Please can I ask that you update any parish website or poster with this information.

Website

You would have seen that we have now significantly improved the [Safeguarding section of our website](#). Over the next year we will be added a significant number of documents and templates to support PSOs in their work. As requested, we will imminently be uploading Safeguarding posters and wallet-sized safeguarding cards to the website to be used by anyone who so wishes. Please don't forget that the website now contains an [online reporting tool](#) so that you can make a safeguarding referral online at a time that suits you. We always prefer getting a written referral so that we have a record readily available to work from.



Report a safeguarding concern

Meet or contact the team

Safeguarding training

Safe recruitment

Resources and policies

Safeguarding news

The [Resources section](#) also includes our new 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster as well as printable business card with key contact information. Your feedback on these new documents is greatly appreciated.

Exciting dashboards update

A reminder that we have been accepted onto a pilot for Safeguarding Hubs that provide a bolt on to the dashboards to support safer recruitment. Please go to the following links below to find out more. These should be coming in March for existing dashboard users. This is a substantial cost to the Diocese so we will be monitoring usage before committing to longer term use of them.

<https://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/hubs.php> [Safeguarding Dashboards](#) | [Safeguarding Hubs - Stage 1](#)



Training update

Please note that there are plenty of spaces available on the [February 22nd Parish Safeguarding Officer Induction](#). To ensure this can go ahead please can you consider signing up if you are new in post, want more support or refresher. January's training was a huge success.

We are getting lots of calls about issues with the Eventbrite platform. Primarily we can put these into two groups of issues. Firstly, people are trying to book onto sessions that are marked as fully subscribed and then calling us to say they can't get on. Secondly people are not finding their session joining instructions. These come from an automated email from Eventbrite when you sign up and then 10 and 5 working days before the session. It may be that the emails are missed or go to your junk mail. If you are really stuck the workbooks can also be [accessed via the website](#).

Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum

Our next forum will be on Wednesday 26th April at 3.30pm. A Zoom link will be provided in our March Newsletter.

DBS Checks

For those of you who are also DBS Administrators / ID Verifiers you may notice that you are offered three options when completing an ID check. Please ensure that you select the bottom option 'Complete ID check manually using original documents provided by the applicant'. The digital ID check option is a service which comes at an additional cost which we are not exploring at this time.

- Invite the applicant to undertake a digital ID check**
SELECT THIS OPTION IF YOU WISH TO INVITE THE APPLICANT TO UNDERGO A DIGITAL ID CHECK USING OUR CERTIFIED IDENTITY SERVICE PROVIDER (IDSP)

Complete the ID check using a digital ID check already obtained
SELECT THIS OPTION IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CARRIED OUT A DIGITAL ID CHECK THROUGH YOUR OWN PROVIDER

Complete the ID check manually using original documents provided by the applicant
SELECT THIS OPTION IF YOU HAVE CARRIED OUT THE ID CHECK MANUALLY USING DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT

Out of Hours cover

Over many years an out of hours cover for safeguarding issues has been provided by myself and my predecessor. As this involves being on call every single evening and weekend of the year it can be very impactful for the role, especially as I have a young family. As such we have reached an agreement with Thirty One Eight (an Independent Christian Safeguarding Organisation) to provide out of hours cover via a dedicated call centre. You will be pleased to hear this has been achieved within my existing budget due to cost savings made elsewhere. You will also recall Thirty One Eight as being the organisation behind the Safeguarding Sunday campaign. We anticipate this agreement starting on February 1st. This will cover 5pm to 12pm every week day evening, 7am to 12pm on the weekend and will also cover bank holidays and the Christmas Holidays.

The Diocese of Bath & Wells partners with thirtyone:eight in relation to accessing the safeguarding Helpline during out of hours (which operates 5pm - midnight & 7am - 09am on Mon-Fri; 07am - midnight on Sat and Sun), on bank holidays and other absences.



Living the story. Telling the story.

During the above-mentioned instances, you are advised to contact thirtyone:eight's Safeguarding Helpline on 0303 003 1111 for emergency safeguarding queries. An Information Sharing Agreement between the two organisations will allow for the DSA to receive a copy of the advice thirtyone:eight may offer the parish church/caller, so that appropriate follow up and support can be offered to the caller/situation, on the DSA's return to the office."

[Find our more information about thirtyone:eight's Safeguarding Helpline](#)

Staff Changes

I'm saddened to report that Andy Duncan our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor will be leaving us on 24 February. Andy will be taking up a crucial role within the Care Quality Commission who work to ensure the quality of NHS care provided is appropriate and he goes with our best wishes and thanks for the care, dedication, and passion he has put into his role. We will be advertising for a full time Safeguarding Caseworker shortly. The slight change to the job title and role better identifies the objective of the role and will make it easier to identify who is responsible for what within the team. If you know a dedicated and passionate Probation Officer, Social Worker or Police Officer that would be great for the role please help them to identify the vacancy when the campaign goes live.

Best wishes,

Ben

Ben Goodhind

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager
Diocese of Bath and Wells

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team



Ben Goodhind
Diocesan SafeG Manager



Leonie Jones
Safeguarding
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Enita Andrews
Safeguarding Trainer



Andrew Duncan
Diocesan SafeG Advisor



Jacqui Keir-Bucknall
Safeguarding Trainer