

## Safeguarding Newsletter – March 2023

### Dashboards special edition

Thank you to everyone who has already started using Safeguarding Dashboards. Safeguarding Dashboards are designed to make administration and governance simpler for everyone. Rather than having to trawl through five or six different folders and guides on your desk, Dashboards enable you to keep watch over everything you should be doing. They can be displayed on a mobile phone, tablet, or computer, so you can access them in a way to suit you and makes it easy to stay on top of Safeguarding in your Parish.

If you haven't yet signed up or want to know more, please watch this [Safeguarding Dashboards' video](#).

The national average of dashboard use stands at 58%. We are currently a little below this at 47% across our Diocese. This is 50% in Bath, 47% in Wells and 46% in Taunton. Parishes in the Sedgemoor Deanery are leading the way with 68% Dashboard usage.

I appreciate the thought of moving over to Safeguarding Dashboards can feel like another time burden however they are designed to reduce the amount of time you spend on safeguarding. We do recognise that although new policies and procedures are making organisations safer, it has increased the amount of administration for safeguarding officers.

It is our expectation that all parishes will start to utilise these dashboards in 2023 and if you haven't signed up yet we will be in touch to see how we can support you with the transition.

### How do I sign up?

1. Make sure you have a separate email address for your safeguarding work rather than a personal one.
2. [Email Ben.Goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Ben.Goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org) with details of your Parish, Benefice and Deanery.

That is literally it and off you go.

### Update on Safeguarding Hubs trial

The new 'Safeguarding Hubs' module is now available for all parishes at level 3 of the Parish Dashboard.

This follows our successful application to join national pilot for a bolt on to the dashboards which will provide you with substantial support in the area of safer recruitment. Ultimately, you will be able to input your staff and roles and it will tell you what they need DBS level and training wise, and automatically remind people to renew their requirements. [Safeguarding Hubs](#) is a three-year project with four stages. We are currently rolling our Stage 1 to parishes that have been using dashboards well and are experienced users. This currently stands at 66 parishes, but anyone who completes level 2 of the dashboard will be automatically invited to join the Safeguarding Hubs via the dashboard.

The decision to only open them up to level 3 users at this stage was made to ensure that people are familiar with the dashboards – and also to ensure there is a manageable number of parishes to support through the trial period.

Safeguarding Hubs functionality is being rolled out in four stages:

- Stage 1 - DBS checks and training records
- Stage 2 - Role descriptions and person specifications
- Stage 3 - Safer recruitment
- Stage 4 - People management

To find out more visit [Tutorials - Safeguarding Hubs](#)

## New Diocesan Safeguarding Caseworker Appointed

I am delighted announce the appointment of Jo Austin as our new Safeguarding Caseworker. This is to replace Andy's now vacant post of Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. She will be officially joining the team in late April.

Jo comes from an established career in the Probation Service, dedicating her work to safeguarding and public protection. She has worked within community teams across Wiltshire and South Wales, and for the last two years has been seconded to HMP Usk as a Prison Offender Manager working exclusively with men convicted of sexual and violent offences. Jo has witnessed first-hand the positive impact that faith has had on society's most vulnerable individuals, and it is this commitment to support and growth that prompted her to join the Diocese.

Jo had a few words to share:

"I am very much looking forward to joining the Safeguarding Team at the Diocese of Bath and Wells. I have witnessed throughout my career the positive impact faith communities can have on individuals, particularly during recent challenging times of the Covid pandemic and current cost of living crisis. I have upmost respect for the often-unseen work being carried out in such communities and look forward to championing this as part of the team. I am already aware of the hard work the Safeguarding Team are doing to create a visible, approachable presence within the diocese; something I am eager to contribute to. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible to drive forward the diocesan vision together."

## Out of Hours cover

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

During these times 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 Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor 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.

## Easter cover

Unfortunately, due to Andy's departure and my pre-planned annual leave, we will be without a Safeguarding Lead to provide referral and casework support between Thursday 6 April and Monday 17 April. Cover will be provided via the out of hours helpline mentioned above. Leonie and our trainers will be around for some of this period for support on safer recruitment and training however referrals and safeguarding casework is not covered by those members of staff. We obviously do have contingencies in place and as such please reach out to my staff if needed.

## Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum

Our next forum will be on Wednesday, 26 April at 3.30pm.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99472526758?pwd=S2lrS3MrMjc4QnN3eDVGWVBIV2FiZz09>

Meeting ID: 994 7252 6758

Passcode: 036691

### **Ben Goodhind**

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Diocese of Bath and Wells

## Diocese of Bath and Wells – Safeguarding team



Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager



Leonie Jones, Safeguarding Coordinator



Enita Andrews, Safeguarding Trainer



Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall, Safeguarding Trainer

Safeguarding Caseworker – Jo Austin