

DIOCESE OF ELY

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Safeguarding Department

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The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter

Welcome to the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter.

A quarterly publication produced by the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Department to help advise and guide our parishes and church leaders on a range of safeguarding related matters.

Remember, you can contact the team and find a range of supporting materials on the [Safeguarding Pages of the Diocese of Ely's website by clicking here.](#)

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Parish Safeguarding Dashboards and Hubs

The [Parish Safeguarding Dashboards](#) are free to use and available to help make safeguarding simpler for Parishes – and the feedback from Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Officers who use the dashboards has been overwhelmingly positive.

A few parishes are yet to sign-up to the Dashboard and some Parish Dashboards have not been updated for a while. The Safeguarding Team would like to encourage and support parishes to join or update their Dashboards.

We have begun to offer [Safeguarding Dashboard Workshops](#) to provide support, demonstrate the benefits of the Dashboard. Workshops are on the 20 February at 10.00 and 21 February at 18.30. Booking is via the training pages of the [Diocesan website](#)

Clearly Simpler, the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub provider, will offering three further [Safeguarding Hubs Workshops](#) during 2024 Tuesday 9 April at 10am, Monday 3 June at 14.00, and Monday 23 September at 14.00 invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

Contact [Sarah King](#) for support with your existing Dashboard or to join the one for your Parish.

Correspondence about a Safeguarding Concern

If you are copied into correspondence about a safeguarding concern or allegation remember to pass this on to the Safeguarding Team. Even though you may not have been the first recipient of the information please don't assume this information has already been passed to the Safeguarding Team.

We would rather receive the information twice than not at all!

Hire Agreements

When outside groups ask to use your church premises, they need to sign a hire agreement.

Please remember to attach the Model Safeguarding Provision document which you will find on the website pages of Parish Safeguarding Resources and Templates – [Safeguarding Forms/Information](#)

Parish Safeguarding Officers e-mail addresses

Using email mailboxes appropriately

One of the main areas through which parishes undertake their safeguarding duties is by sharing information through emails, and frequently individuals, such as Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs), perform this task using their personal email accounts.

It is especially important that PSOs in particular refrain from using their personal email accounts to share and discuss matters of a safeguarding nature. There are many sound reasons for this, not least it ensures that if you leave the role, the Parish is able to retain the email account for continuity reasons, as well as helping to ensure there are appropriate privacy restrictions around who is able to access this information (readers will know and appreciate that all too frequently more than one family member may have access to a personal mailbox).

Many parishes have already set-up centralised email accounts, often based on the role name and the church, (i.e. safeguarding@mychurchname.com), and if your PCC has yet to do so, we would strongly encourage you to do so.

The platform (technology) you consider in setting-up role specific parish emails will vary

depending on your parishes circumstances. For instance, it is possible your website is hosted by a company that is able to provide emails with that service, either included already or at extra cost. Alternatively, there are other platforms available free of charge to charities, or very modestly priced for non-charities, that can offer this service.

[Church Edit](#), who work with parishes and the Church of England to provide a variety of parish administrative tools and websites, recommend Google as a email (mailbox) provider.

Church Edit have produced a helpful news item to explain the steps required to set this up with Google, which we have linked below. We would strongly recommend you discuss this with your PCC and implement either this, or another alternative appropriate to your parish, if you are still using personal emails for parish business.

<https://www.churchedit.co.uk/google-hosted-emails.php>

Parish Websites

Please review the Safeguarding pages of your parish websites to ensure they are displaying the most up to date information links and contact numbers.

For New Safeguarding Referrals to the Safeguarding Team please list the Duty Phone number **01353 652747**. This ensures all calls are responded to promptly.

During office hours the Duty Phone is managed by the Safeguarding Team and out of hours by [Thirtyone:Eight](#).

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

In December 2023 the Department for Education published a revised version of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Links to the document can be found [here](#), and a summary of the key changes can be found [here](#).

Chapter 4 (paragraphs 3.10 – 3.15) outlines the expectations upon faith-based organisations, but with a wider expectation that obligations under the whole chapter should be fully understood by charities, including faith-based organisations.

310. Voluntary, charity, social enterprise, faith-based organisations, and private sector organisations and agencies play an important role in safeguarding children through the services they deliver. Some of these will work with particular communities, with different races and faith communities, and deliver via health, adult social care, housing, and Prison and Probation Services. They may, as part of their work, provide a wide range of activities for children and have an important role in safeguarding children and supporting families and communities.

311. Like other organisations and agencies who work with children, they should have appropriate arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children from harm. Many of these organisations and agencies as well as many schools, children’s centres, early years, and childcare organisations, will be subject to charity law and regulated either by the Charity Commission and/or other “principal” regulators. Charity trustees are responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from, or working with, their charity, are not harmed in any way through contact with it.

The Charity Commission for England and Wales provides guidance on charity compliance which should be followed 187

312. Some of these organisations and agencies are large national charities whilst others will have a much smaller local reach. Some will be delivering statutory services and may be run by volunteers, such as library services. This important group of organisations includes youth services not delivered by local authorities or district councils.

313. All practitioners working in these organisations and agencies who are working with children and their families are subject to the same safeguarding responsibilities, whether paid or volunteer.

314. Every VCSE, faith-based organisation and private sector organisation or agency should have policies in place to safeguard and protect children from harm. These should be followed, and systems should be in place to ensure compliance in this. Individual practitioners, whether paid or volunteer, should be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and protecting children from harm, how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to local authority children’s social care or the police, if necessary.

315. Every VCSE, faith-based organisation and private sector organisation or agency should have in place the arrangements described in this chapter. They should be aware of how they need to work with the safeguarding partners in a local area. Charities (within the meaning of section 1 Charities Act 2011), religious organisations (regulation 34 and schedule 3 to School Admissions) and any person involved in the provision, supervision or oversight of sport or leisure are included within the Relevant

Agency Regulations 188. This means if the safeguarding partners name them as a relevant partner they must cooperate. Other VCSE, faith-based and private sector organisations not on the list of relevant agencies can also be asked to co-operate as part of the local arrangements and should do so.

National Safeguarding Standards

The Church of England released the **National Safeguarding Standards and Quality Assurance Framework** last year.

Their aim is to help dioceses, cathedrals and parishes to answer the question "*How good is our safeguarding activity?*"

The Safeguarding Team will be releasing further information shortly, but please be reassured this is not an 'extra' task for parishes, but a way of helping parishes understand what they are doing well already and what areas might need some more attention.

The primary focus for Parishes in relation to the Standards is to **update and maintain your Dashboard regularly**.

If you need help with your Dashboard or need to register for one in your Parish, please contact **Sarah King** who will assist you. Please also see the **Dashboard Workshops** available in February.

DBS Webinars

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) have produced some helpful Webinars which are available to watch online.

Click through on the links below.

- **[DBS Faith Sector Webinar](#)**
- **[DBS Eligibility Webinar](#)**

Dates for your diary

Parish Safeguarding Officers' Meetings for 2024

- Monday 29 April at 10am
- Wednesday 10 July at 10am
- Wednesday October 9 at 10am

Evensong and Bishop's Garden Party for Parish Safeguarding Officers

- Wednesday 12 June at 5.30pm



Contact the Team

Safeguarding Referrals to Safeguarding Team (both office and out of hours)

Please call **01353 652747**

Safeguarding Casework

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

Rebecca Boswell,

Email: rebecca.boswell@elydiocese.org,

Telephone number: 01353 652731, Mobile

Number: 07904 487912, Hours of work 9am-

5pm Monday to Friday

ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

Sharon Gage (part-time),

Email sharon.gage@elydiocese.org, Telephone

number: 01353 652706, Mobile Number: 07507

741295, Hours of work 9.30am -2.30pm Monday

to Thursday

ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

Lisa Pearson (part-time),

Email: lisa.pearson@elydiocese.org, Telephone

number: 01353 652738, Mobile Number: 07990

581267, Hours of work 9am-5pm Monday to

Thursday

Training, Criminal Record Checks (DBS) and Parish Safeguarding Officer Support

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AND PARISH SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

Sarah King, E-mail: sarah.king@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652735, Mobile
Number: 0777 666 1798, Hours of work 9am-5pm
Monday to Friday

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT - DBS CHECKS

Jackie Williamson (part-time), E-mail: safeguardadmin@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652721, Hours of work
9am-5pm Tuesday and Wednesday

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT - TRAINING

Kelly Nott (part-time), E-mail: safeguarding.training@elydiocese.org, Telephone
number: 01353 652744, Hours of work 10am-2pm
Monday to Friday