

April Safeguarding Newsletter

I trust you all had a lovely Easter and hope you had the opportunity to rest, reflect and recharge. For me, it is always a time of renewal and reflection as we look towards the summer. Our team have had some happy news that we wish to share with you. Leonie Jones our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is expecting a baby around the middle of August and, all being well, will depart for a period of maternity leave at the start of that month. I'm sure everyone will wish Leonie well and we will update you on plans to recruit an interim maternity cover once we are able to share.

Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum

The next forum will take place Wednesday 8 May at 3.30pm. If you would be interested in holding an in-person forum (including evenings) and have a venue we could use please do let me know. We could then take these on the road for the rest of the year.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96675249006?pwd=TUIIWVJxMzkrMU56Nkh6d2dPYktQdz09>

Meeting ID: 966 7524 9006

Passcode: 407322

If you are a new PSO and need some support or even if you are not a new PSO but still in need of some support, please do get in touch, we are always happy to facilitate some one to one assistance for you.

Train the Trainer

Spaces are still available for our upcoming Train the Trainer date. This will take place Wednesday 19 June 10am - 1pm. [Click here to book your place.](#)

This course is suitable for anyone interested in delivering Basic Awareness and Foundation training locally. It will equip you with the information and confidence to arrange and deliver training, as well as guidance on what to do next, and helpful hints from our trainers.



Train the Trainer

For local delivery of
Basic Awareness and Foundation Training



Parish Dashboards Update

Work towards parish dashboards continues to grow at a steady pace. At present, 63% of parishes across the diocese are now using Safeguarding Dashboards and have reached at least level 1 (that's 294 out of

464), an increase from January's 57% usage. Currently 48.5% of dashboards have reached or surpassed Level 2.

Level 2 and beyond is where parishes can record information which will contribute greatly to both the National Safeguarding Standards and our upcoming Audit. As you can see, this means that should the audit happen today we would only be able to gather data on how Safeguarding is going in half of our parishes. All progress towards higher levels is of great benefit to both you and us. If you need any support or have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any time.

If you are interested in what this audit focuses on you can find out more about the National Safeguarding Standards by following this link [National Safeguarding Standards | The Church of England](#). Please note that you can see the outcomes and recommendations of the recent Diocese of Salisbury audit here: [inege_independent_safeguarding_audits_0324_salisbury.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#). This is helpful in considering what recommendations have been made elsewhere and where we are at present.

Parish Dashboards - Resources for PSOs and PCCs

We are pleased to share that the PSO National Group has developed a Safeguarding Dashboard video, created by PSOs for PSOs and PCCs. It is available as a series of two-minute videos (12 mins in total). Viewers are encouraged to dip into the areas of interest via the Safeguarding Virtual Library on the portal [Safeguarding Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#) or watch it as a 12 minute video using the link below -



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i3bhXbBhcVJ2yO3I6gG0_OrvjH19X-Ez/view?mc_cid=38a23b6808

Guidance for owners / editors of Multiple Parish Dashboards

In our previous newsletter we mentioned the possibility of joint Benefice Dashboards for groups of smaller parishes. Unfortunately, following further investigation this is not possible. However, if you are the owner of two or more dashboards you can update multiple dashboards at the same time.

[Find out how you can update multiple dashboards](#)

Safeguarding Sunday 2024

[Safeguarding Sunday | Thirtyone:eight \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](#)

Please find a link to this year's Safeguarding Sunday event on 17 November. I appreciate that many of you shared with us that the timing of this event wasn't helpful, but I'm happy for you to hold an event at a time that works for you. This year I'm really interested in what you are doing to protect vulnerable people in your parish. If you have any clubs, groups, or event that we can celebrate and share, with the help of our excellent Communications team, please do email me directly. My contact details are available at the bottom of this newsletter.

Job 5:15-16 “He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth; he saves them from the clutches of the powerful. *So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth.*”

Redress Scheme Update

Details of the proposed financial award framework for the national Redress Scheme have just been published. If approved through the Church legislative processes, the framework will be used to calculate offers of financial redress to survivors and victims of church-related abuse. Details of how the scheme will be funded have also been announced.

You can read the Church announcement in full here: [Safeguarding news and releases | The Church of England](#).

If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of the Redress Scheme, please email redress@churchofengland.org

Training Material Updates

You may notice some differences next time you attend Leadership or complete your Basic Awareness and Foundation training as the National Safeguarding Team continues to refresh materials. Changes to the Domestic Abuse Awareness course are expected in November.

If you deliver Basic Awareness in person in your parish, please do contact us for updated materials. New materials for Foundations are expected in the coming months.

Safeguarding Website

If you haven't already, please do familiarise yourself with our website.

If there are any suggestions for additional content or documents that would be helpful to upload to our resources page, we'd love to hear from you.

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/parish-support/safeguarding/safeguarding-resources-and-policies/safeguarding-resources-and-policies>

Wells Cathedral

Did you know the Diocesan Safeguarding Team also provides safeguarding services to Wells Cathedral? If you are a cathedral volunteer, you can contact me or Jo with any safeguarding concerns. Jo works from Wells Cathedral one day a week.



Wilkinson / Jay Report Focus Group Opportunity

The Wilkinson/Jay Response Group is seeking up to five Parish Safeguarding Officers from the Diocese of Bath and Wells to join a focus group to discuss the future of safeguarding in the Church of England.

The [Wilkinson/Jay Response Group](#) was established in March 2024 to coordinate the Church's response to the recent reports by [Sarah Wilkinson](#) and [Alexis Jay](#) about safeguarding in the Church of England. On 21 March, the Response Group [launched](#) a survey to gather views from across the Church. The survey closed on 18 April, having received 2,003 responses—including a high number from Parish Safeguarding Officers across the country.

In order to further explore themes identified in the survey, the Response Group is running a series of focus groups, including with Parish Safeguarding Officers, during April and May. They are seeking volunteers to participate in these groups, which will be facilitated by a professional researcher and last no longer than 90 minutes.

Sessions will take place using Zoom at the following times:

Monday 20 May, 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Thursday 23 May, 6:00pm to 7:00pm

If you would be interested in participating, please write to jayresponse@churchofengland.org, stating:

Your name;

The name of your parish; and

Which session you would like to attend.

The deadline for responses is 13 May.

Diocese of Bath and Wells – Safeguarding team



Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager
01749 588917
Ben.Goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org



Jo Austin, Safeguarding Caseworker
01749 588905
Joanne.Austin@bathwells.anglican.org



Leonie Jones, Safeguarding Coordinator
01749 588907
Leonie.Jones2@bathwells.anglican.org



Enita Andrews, Safeguarding Trainer
training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org



Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall, Safeguarding Trainer
training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org

Out of hours cover

Please contact the safeguarding Helpline on 0303 003 1111 during out of hours (It operates 5pm - midnight on Mon-Fri; 7am - midnight on Sat and Sun), on bank holidays and other absences.