

Safeguarding Newsletter – Christmas Edition 2023

I would like to start my newsletter by wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas. I especially want to reach out to those who will find this Christmas particularly difficult, be it due to bereavement, loneliness, or ill health. Please know that we are here to offer advice to anyone who is concerned about a vulnerable person at this time of year.

I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who supported Safeguarding Sunday this year. Please do let me know what events you held to mark the event.

This is my third Christmas in the diocese and those who read my first Christmas letter will recall the huge array of traditions my family has as a part English, German, Italian, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist and secular family. My time in the diocese has led to even more happy traditions such as Carols by Candlelight at our beautiful Cathedral and the diocesan support services carol service and social get together.

It is a very busy month both in and out of work, as I know it is for you, and I wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported the work of my team over the past two years. Looking ahead to 2024 the team hope this will be a year where we can offer more direct support to parishes via a range of planned events, including Dashboard and DBS Training and enhanced training and engagement events for Parish Safeguarding Officers. I'm also keen to get to as many Deanery Chapter meetings as possible, so do encourage invites to come out to us in the new year.

2024 Training Plan

Next year we plan to deliver a minimum of the following.

2x Leadership sessions a week	4 x sessions of Train the Trainer
4 x Leadership for PTO	1 x DBS Training sessions with 31:8
1 x Chaplaincy Training	1x Spiritual Directors Training
1 Dashboard Masterclass with Graeme Pringle (Creator of the Dashboard)	3 sessions of Safeguarding Hubs Training to cover all 3 areas of Hubs
A Training Day for Cathedral Staff	1 x PSO Induction session
3 x PSO development and engagement days (This will be a rebranded and modified version of Induction to make it more relevant to both brand new and existing PSO's)	

Leadership Training Accessibility

Please note that when you register for leadership training you will receive a confirmation email from Eventbrite. This will have links to the preparatory work for these sessions. If you have difficulty accessing the material or undertaking it, please do let our trainers know in good time so that we can adapt the material, or ensure you have the support you need to get the most from it.

Government guidance for organisations providing community activities, tuition or after school clubs for children.

Jo has kindly shared the attached guidance which will be of interest to those providing groups for children.

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/content/pages/documents/dofe-safeguarding-guidance-clubs-and-activities.pdf>

2025 Audit

The audit focuses on five standards:

1. Prevention
2. Culture, Leadership, and Capacity
3. Recognising, Assessing, and Managing Risk
4. Victims and Survivors
5. Learning, Supervision and Support



Over the next few months, I will share more details of what is being looked at. As part of this process, I will be putting together working groups to explore how we evidence and develop these areas. If you are willing to volunteer a few hours of time to help shape this work, I would be ever so grateful if you would [email me directly](#).

DBS Training Event – 12 January 2024

Thirtyone:eight will be delivering training for our Parish Safeguarding Officers in December and January. We have requested this to support you with our new processes. All spaces have been filled how please email training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org to join the waiting list.

Feedback from a Parish Dashboard User

We always welcome feedback and take joy in sharing good news with you. Today we have some feedback on the Parish Dashboards from a user in Portishead:

I have found the Dashboard to be an amazing tool for safeguarding. Having engaged with the process from the very beginning I'm absolutely delighted with the latest developments. It is revolutionising our record keeping, taking the stress out of reminding folk about training courses and DBS renewal and gives a safe and secure area to record information. Huge thanks to the creator of Parish Dashboards for embracing the challenge and creating something that's functional, flexible and friendly to use.

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.



PSO Forum and training

Please note the next date for the PSO Forum is 17 January at 4pm (link below). I'm aware that several of you have requested an evening forum. I'm sorry, but at present I am unable to make this work as I have young children. I do hope to be able to offer some in-person forums next year, if the demand is there. The next PSO training will be on 25 January, from 10am to 1pm. I'd also like to welcome PSOs who are not brand new in role as these sessions are helpful for developing the PSO role, as much as they are for preparing new volunteers. With good attendance rates I'm happy to put more on.

<https://zoom.us/j/93102346543?pwd=ejNFZ0xJV3VTR2l3S1U2N0QzaW1JZz09>

Meeting ID: 931 0234 6543

Passcode: 740002

Train the Trainer

I'm pleased to announce these sessions will be coming back in 2024. The aim of the sessions is to provide people with the skills to deliver online training such as Basic and Foundation as live, in-person events. Please keep an eye on our training events on the diocesan events page and as soon as we can release the dates for booking, we will. The first session is on 11 January; unfortunately, this is now fully booked. More events will be held throughout the year.

Christmas Availability

Training - Please note that our Leadership training has now ended for 2023. We do however have dates on the event calendar for you to book in January.

DBS Support Leonie's last working day before Christmas will be 19 December. As such, please note our DBS mailbox will not be monitored from then until 2 January. For DBS support over Christmas please visit 31:8's website for details of their working hours or contact them on 0303 003 1111.

Safeguarding referrals and Advice Please note that Jo and I will be on leave from 22 December until 2 January. There will however be cover provided via the 31:8 helpline from 5pm on 21 December through to 9am on 2 January - 0303 003 1111. If you do not immediately get an answer, please leave a message and they will respond asap. We also have a range of contact details for support agencies via our website.

[Reporting concerns or abuse - Bath and Wells Diocese](#)

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager
Diocese of Bath and Wells

Diocese of Bath and Wells – Safeguarding team



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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.