

## January Safeguarding Newsletter



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and have had a fantastic start to 2024. This week I welcomed Alexander Kubeyinje, the National Director of Safeguarding for the Church of England to the diocese. Alexander spent time with my team, our Diocesan Secretary and our Deanery and Parish Support lead. We discussed the challenges our parishes face and how we can support our volunteers more in the years to come.

Alexander then met with Patricia Hellier our new Independent Cathedral Safeguarding Panel Chair to learn about the safeguarding work that takes place in the Cathedral. Finally, Alexander met Bishop Michael and finished the day by commenting on the excellent work you are all doing in keeping our communities safe.

### 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 we are looking to deliver the PSO forum in different ways over the course of this year. This may include offering an evening session, an in-person session, as well as considering other ideas put forward by yourselves. Prior to setting a date for the next session please feedback any ideas or requests to [Safe.Guarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Safe.Guarding@bathwells.anglican.org) Our forums are an excellent chance to network however they are really poorly attended and as such I'm keen to find the best way to get more people involved. We are so sorry we had to cancel the PSO induction this week. Unfortunately, Covid and sickness bugs continue to wreak havoc. We will be in touch directly to offer those who were due to attend the opportunity to rebook onto our next session in March.

### Train the Trainer

We recently ran our new and updated train the trainer course. We have a large number of participants who provided excellent feedback on the session. It was great to be able to work collaboratively together on creating ideas for delivering the online safeguarding material in person to those who can't access the internet. Please keep your eyes peeled for session we will be running in the next quarter.

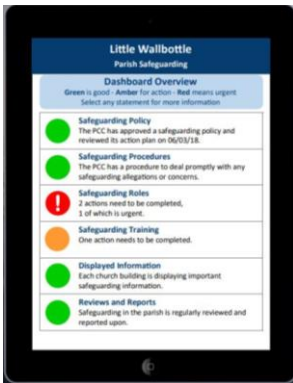


## Safeguarding Dashboards and Hubs Project 2024.

As I have shared with you previously, Safeguarding Dashboards are becoming mandatory for all parishes this year. Dashboards enable us to evidence compliance with Safeguarding Policy and Practice guidance (vital for the upcoming audit) and they also make it easier to stay on top of parish safeguarding responsibilities. Whilst this may sound daunting to those parishes struggling to get started, we are providing comprehensive training to support you.

We will shortly be sending a survey to all parishes which will help us to identify where support is needed. We will then explore any obstacles to launching dashboards and proactively find solutions to help you.

**Please read the information below carefully as it explains in detail available training courses and how to access them.**



Parish Dashboards is an online system accessed on a mobile phone, tablet or computer that gives assurance to parishes that they are complying with statutory requirements and Church of England policies, or else it explains what actions need to be taken.

Approximately 50% of parishes are already using the dashboard. From the 2024, in Bath & Wells, there will be a requirement that Parish Dashboards are used in all churches.

### Not yet using Parish Dashboards?

Don't worry. It's an easy-to-use tool for Parish Safeguarding Officers to see an overview of their parish at a glance and this safeguarding information can then be shared with their incumbent, churchwardens or other authorised users.

We are inviting all those in the Diocese of Bath and Wells who have registered for the Safeguarding Dashboard but have yet to use it or are still at Level 1 to an online workshop which will introduce you to the Safeguarding Dashboards and explore how you can use them. It will be suitable both for those who have not yet started using the Dashboards and for those who have already made a start.

The workshop will be on Wednesday, 28 February at 10 am and will run for 1 hour.

Please note that, if you are unable to join this workshop, workshops with the same content are planned for: Wednesday 5 June at 10 am and Wednesday 9 October at 10 am. Invitations for these workshops will go out nearer the time.

You can read more about Safeguarding Dashboards at <https://safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/>

The workshop will highlight the benefits of using the Dashboard and show how easy it is to get started and progress in using it.

[Register to attend the Parish Dashboard training on Wednesday, 28 February at 10am](#)

Already using Parish Dashboards? Let's introduce Safeguarding Hubs.

### **Safeguarding Hubs - invitation to an exploratory workshop**

We are inviting all those in the Diocese of Bath and Wells who are currently using the Safeguarding Dashboards at Level 2 or 3 to an online workshop which will introduce you to the Safeguarding Hubs and explore how you can use them. It will be suitable both for those who have not yet started using the Hubs and for those who have already made a start.

The workshop will be on Wednesday, 28 February at 2 pm and will run for 1 hour, with an optional second hour for those who want to stay on to ask more questions or to find out more.

Please note that, if you are unable to join this workshop, workshops with the same content are planned for Wednesday, 5 June at 2 pm and Wednesday, 9 October at 2 pm. Invitations for these workshops will go out nearer the time.

A Safeguarding Hub has a suite of tools to help a parish with safeguarding.

The first three tools:

- Keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training.
- Create role descriptions and person specifications.
- Track the safer recruitment of new volunteers.

You can read more about Safeguarding Hubs at <https://safeguardinghubs.org.uk/introduction.php>  
The workshop will highlight the benefits of using the Hubs and show how easy it is to get started and progress in using it.

The first hour will focus on the core content of Stages 1 and 2. It will include a demonstration of their main features, with the opportunity to ask questions.

The second hour is optional. After a short break, for any participants that want to continue, we will focus on the core content of Stage 3 and there will also be the opportunity to ask any other questions about the Hubs.

If you are already using the Hubs and already confident with Stages 1 and 2, you are welcome to join for the second hour only.

[Register to attend the Safeguarding Hubs workshop on Wednesday 28 February at 2pm](#)

## **Reduced team availability over February Half-Term**

Over half-term – Monday, 12 February to Friday, 23 February the team will be undertaking a migration of our Safeguarding cases from our current electronic storage system on to the National Case Management System. Due to the high workload our availability will be reduced. We ask that you make the most of Eventbrite for Training and 31:8 for DBS eligibility enquiries during this time. We will seek to reply to any calls and emails as soon as reasonably possible, however there may be delays during this period. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

## Diocese of Bath and Wells – Safeguarding team



Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager  
01749 588917  
[Ben.Goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Ben.Goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org)



Jo Austin, Safeguarding Caseworker  
01749 588905  
[Joanne.Austin@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Joanne.Austin@bathwells.anglican.org)



Leonie Jones, Safeguarding Coordinator  
01749 588907  
[Leonie.Jones2@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Leonie.Jones2@bathwells.anglican.org)



Enita Andrews, Safeguarding Trainer  
[training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org)



Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall, Safeguarding Trainer  
[training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto: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.