Newsletter July 2022 (summer holiday edition)

# Safeguarding Team Updates

I’m thrilled to announce that Leonie Jones has now joined us as Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Leonie is your point of contact for training booking, and DBS, Andy also has my diaries if you can’t contact us. Leonie’s role will develop and evolve over time, and we are really excited to have her join us.

Leonie Jones

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Safeguarding Coordinator

Diocese of Bath and Wells

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I’m sad to report that Cameron McConnell will be leaving our team on August 10th. Cameron joined us on a fixed term contract in 2021 to undertake casework for the Past Case Review process. This was a vital role in ensuring that we both learned lessons from historic safeguarding failures and that victims, whose voices had previously not been heard, could now be. Cameron did a huge amount of work for victims in a very warm and empathetic way that was greatly appreciated. He then stepped into the trainer role at exceptionally short notice, on a temporary, when our previous trainer unexpectedly left. We had a spring and summer schedule of fully booked training that we could not afford to lose and as such I’m incredibly grateful to Cameron and my team and I will miss him greatly.

# Recruitment

As mentioned in the last newsletter we are recruiting 2 permanent Safeguarding Trainers. Part-time 18 hours (2 full days at Flourish House and 1 evening a week from home). These will be set days and the trainers will deliver the National Safeguarding Team’s statutory training and where possible work to deliver more bespoke training for the diocese. Please see the advert below.

[Bath and Wells Diocese | Safeguarding Trainers - Part Time](https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/-vacancies/diocesan-staff/part-of-how-we-do-this-is-by-providing-additional-encouragement-and-support-for-the-vocational-development-of-those-of-u.php)

# Safeguarding Training

Unfortunately, due to Cameron’s early departure, new bookings for training are now closed until we relaunch our training this autumn. We hope to have our new trainers in place by the start of September, but also need to ensure they are fully trained and ready to deliver the highest quality of training before we restart. Whilst we are still working on exactly how the training will look, we need to ensure we deliver exactly as it has been designed, with two facilitators and the separation of the two sections of leadership training, which we have to this point been delivering together. We aim to offer up to 6 leadership courses a month, a PTO Leadership, PSO induction and Train the Trainer event as well as one bespoke or locally delivered event.

Unfortunately, we need to cancel the leadership training events scheduled for after 10 August. This will affect roughly 15 people who will be offered slots on our earlier training. We also need to cancel 3 PTO Leadership events between 16 August and 12 October. This will impact 36 people; however, we will put on a couple of earlier training events to hopefully enable everyone who has already booked with us a chance to train. The PSO induction training scheduled for the end of August will not be affected as I will deliver this myself.

I do apologise for the inconvenience but hope you understand that we are continuing to develop our team and work and the future of training looks very bright for the autumn.

# Training Certificates

As I mentioned in the last newsletter we have fallen behind with certificates. Whilst Leonie has been working very hard in getting these out to you, please do let her know if you are missing yours. Please note there is a requirement to submit your reflections after completing the leadership programme (please see the workbook) if you haven’t done this you won’t receive a certificate. Leonie has already made significant improvements to our systems, so this won’t be a problem in the future.

[Training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org)

# DBS Updates

These continue to process very quickly. Just a reminder to let us know when you have completed them ready for us to sign off. Please ensure you let us know what the role involves so that we know what check to ask for.

1. Will the role involve working with children? If so, will there be unsupervised contact with children?
2. Will the role involve working with potentially vulnerable adults? If so, will they be providing any personal care, helping with shopping, handling money or helping to arrange payment of bills?
3. Is this a paid role or voluntary?
4. Will they hold any meetings with parishioners them in their home?

[Dbs.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Dbs.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org)

# Parish Safeguarding Officer Forums

A reminder that I have now start running a quarterly forum to support and update PSOs as well as to receive feedback and questions. These run on Microsoft Teams and are designed to take place shortly before our diocesan safeguarding panels so that the feedback can be heard by the panel. The first one was held on 16 June 2022; further ones will be held on 12 October and 7 December 2022 3.30pm-5pm via Microsoft Teams. These are completely voluntary and designed to support you. Please let me know if you wish to join the forum group. You can access the next forum which will be on 12 October 3.30pm-5pm via Microsoft Teams by clicking the link below and decide if this is something you would value.

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NzJhYWQxODMtNzlkZS00Yzk1LWE1NWMtODkxMjM0YTUzN2Ix%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227f1b6aa6-9100-4d04-b439-e1873b6a5c0b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228d1aa867-262c-4841-8c09-839fd0febabb%22%7d>

If you are new in post and finding the role overwhelming, please reach out so that we can support you. Please note our PSO induction training is open to all PSOs and it’s a great chance to meet me and your PSO peers to access support and develop your practice.

# Website

After the summer we are hoping to redesign the safeguarding section of the diocesan website. Please let me know if you have any ideas about how we can make this work better for you. Is there content you would like to see?

# Summer Holidays

I hope, like me, you have the opportunity to take a break this summer. It’s been 3 years of restrictions and challenges but getting a chance to take in new surroundings and detach from work is vital to the mental health of all of us. This summer I will be heading off to the Vendee in France with my wife and two young children, mostly to eat cheese and take a break from the business of life.

I will be away from the office from 5 to 19 August and then again from 1 to 16 September to support my daughter who is starting school. These days the process involves starting a few hours a day and gradually increasing over a couple of weeks. I am looking forward to having this special time with her. Andy Duncan will cover in my absence but please note we are a casework team of 2 and as such Andy will have limited capacity. I’m keen to ensure he is not overloaded so I would appreciate people’s patience with non-emergency communications. Please don’t forget we also have Leonie who will be available to support you with non-casework queries.

Whatever your plans this summer I wish you a happy time.

Ben Goodhind

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager