
Summer 2025

Safeguarding Newsletter



Dear all,

I do hope you are enjoying the fantastic weather and anticipating whatever plans you have for your summer holidays. It's a lengthy edition this month but lots of important news to share.

INEQE Audit Update

Just to update you all: we have returned the first draft of our audit report with suggested amendments to INEQE and are awaiting the final approved draft.

Once we have this I will be working with our Communications team and the National Safeguarding Team to plan its publication which will be available on our website. I anticipate this happening on 16 July.

I'm pleased to announce that, following the audit's identification of an additional resourcing need, we have extended the contracts of Jake Lent (Safeguarding Co-ordinator), Julie Davies (full-time Caseworker), and Richard Brown (part-time Caseworker), until at least the end of the year. We will establish the longer-term needs of the department through a strategic review, which I'm currently undertaking.

Jake's role will take a lead focus on parish support. Jake is keen to support you, either remotely or in person, in areas such as Safeguarding Dashboard progression, onboarding Safeguarding Hubs, or support with a range of administrative tasks relevant to your role.

Please do reach out to Jake if your parish could benefit from some support.

Ben
Safeguarding Manager

2026-2028 Strategic Plan

Following the publication of our audit this summer we are going to think about what we need to prioritise and deliver in the next 3-year period.

This will include everything, from developing a training strategy, resourcing the team and support priorities for PSO's, incumbents and churchwardens etc.

We want to hear what you feel we need to focus on and plan to send out a survey asking for your ideas in the early autumn.

If you have any ideas about ideas we should be asking please do feel free to share them with the team.

Some areas we feel we'd like to prioritise are a greater provision of mental health first aid, a focus on dementia friendly churches and more support for our clergy in a range of constructive areas.

PSO Celebration events

Thank you to everyone who has taken part. The fifth and final celebration event takes place next week on 8 July.

My team and I have loved being able to thank you all in person for the huge contribution you make, and for your support for our work and general wellbeing. We hope to hold more local events over the next few years so that we can bring everyone together and learn from each other.

I also want to pass on our thanks to all those who haven't been able to attend.

PCC Members and DBS

We have been asked to provide some clarification about which PCC members need a DBS check and at what level this needs to be at. The safeguarding team has created guidance for PCC/Churchwarden DBS and training that is available on our resources and policies page [pcc---churchwarden-dbs-and-training-guidance.docx](#)

It is only mandatory for PCC members to be DBS checked if they are eligible for an Enhanced DBS check as outlined in this guidance document. It is not mandatory to process Basic DBS checks for PCC members if they do not meet the eligibility criteria for an Enhanced DBS check.

If your parish make the decision locally to carry out a Basic DBS check for your PCC members, the diocese will support this local decision.

Safeguarding Sunday 16 November 2025

Please note that this year's [Safeguarding Sunday](#) is on 16 November. If this date does not work for your individual church, please do not worry, we encourage you to hold your own event at a time and date that works best for you.

This year we want to celebrate the work you do in your community. It will also be an opportunity to share with your parishes the positive outcomes of our independent audit.

PSO Forums

Please be advised of the following upcoming events for PSO's

1. DBS Workshop with Jake Lent. Tuesday 8 July 8 at 2pm

[https://zoom.us/j/92827468509?](https://zoom.us/j/92827468509?pwd=kqVELh9WhTkfCKpGf9hx4108zOHv0A.1)
[pwd=kqVELh9WhTkfCKpGf9hx4108zOHv0A.1](https://zoom.us/j/92827468509?pwd=kqVELh9WhTkfCKpGf9hx4108zOHv0A.1)

2. Working with individuals who pose a risk. Jo Austin 18 September 1pm

[https://zoom.us/j/98735343925?](https://zoom.us/j/98735343925?pwd=JUgkdhPamYcJI1voUloB7syyNGWNbK.1)
[pwd=JUgkdhPamYcJI1voUloB7syyNGWNbK.1](https://zoom.us/j/98735343925?pwd=JUgkdhPamYcJI1voUloB7syyNGWNbK.1)

3. Safeguarding strategy 2026-2028 planning meeting. Ben Goodhind
Thursday 9 October 2pm

[https://zoom.us/j/96627491761?](https://zoom.us/j/96627491761?pwd=PhnVyDYkkPWBAasi01nE8iv5N16enI.1)
[pwd=PhnVyDYkkPWBAasi01nE8iv5N16enI.1](https://zoom.us/j/96627491761?pwd=PhnVyDYkkPWBAasi01nE8iv5N16enI.1)

4. TBC 2x Training sessions with 31:8 on DBS.

Safeguarding Hub Service Agreement

A service agreement for Parish Safeguarding Hubs (a safer recruitment tool within the Safeguarding Dashboard to track safeguarding training, DBS and recruitment processes) is being introduced by the [ClearlySimpler](#) team in July.

As the Parish Safeguarding Hubs contain the personal data of volunteers, the service agreement sets out the responsibilities of the PCC and ClearlySimpler and must be accepted in order to store this personal data in the Parish Safeguarding Hub. This agreement will also allow the diocesan team to access the information in a Parish Safeguarding Hub if necessary, and only with the parishes consent. Parishes can reserve the right to withdraw or deny this access for any reason.

In July, a message will appear on the login page and Hub owners will be asked to accept the service agreement on behalf of their PCC. This will simply require a box to be ticked. You will have until the end of December to accept the service agreement. If this is not accepted, any information that is contained in your Parish Safeguarding Hub will be permanently deleted. If your parish has not set up their Hub, you will not receive this message until a new invitation to the Hub is accepted.

Future Hub Developments

The ClearlySimpler team are working to link the Parish Safeguarding Hub with other safeguarding systems, including the Online Training Portal and the 31:8 DBS portal. It's hoped this will streamline parish safeguarding administration by automatically updating volunteer information for new DBS checks and training renewals.

The ClearlySimpler team are also developing ways the Hub can enable Hub owners to better manage volunteer requirements directly through the Hub tools. These developments are still under development, but we hope to introduced some of them in 2026.

If you have any questions or would like assistance with getting set up on the Parish Safeguarding Hub, please email safe.guarding@bathwells.anglican.org.

Bath and Wells Safeguarding Training

Summer 2025

Before taking or renewing the Leadership course, we recommend revisiting the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses for a reminder of the basics. This can be done online, through the CofE training portal: [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#). You can find details of upcoming courses on the Diocesan Events Calender on the website [Events & training - Bath and Wells Diocese](#)

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.

Meet the Safeguarding team

Ben Goodhind

Safeguarding Manager

[Ben Goodhind's contact information](#)

Jo Austin

Safeguarding Caseworker

[Jo Austin's contact information.](#)

Jake Lent

Safeguarding Coordinator

[Jake Lent's contact information.](#)

Enita Andrews

Safeguarding Trainer

[Enita Andrews's contact information.](#)

Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall

Safeguarding Trainer

[Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall's contact information.](#)

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