

DIOCESE OF ELY

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Safeguarding Department

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The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter

Welcome to the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter.

A quarterly publication produced by the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Department to help advise and guide our parishes and church leaders on a range of safeguarding related matters.

Remember, you can contact the team and find a range of supporting materials on the [Diocese of Ely Safeguarding pages of the website by clicking here.](#)

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PSO Meeting 7 October 2025

We are delighted to welcome Lisa Clarke, National Safeguarding Learning and Development Manager, as our speaker for the meeting. Lisa will give some updates from the National Safeguarding Team regarding the new Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training, Managing Safeguarding Concerns and Allegations and the Parish Safeguarding Toolkit. Lisa will also take any questions you may have.

Safeguarding Sunday – a message from Thirtyone:eight

We're excited to let you know that Thirtyone:eight's annual safeguarding awareness campaign has launched today! This year, Safeguarding Sunday is on 16th November - and the theme is **Action Speaks Louder**.

To help with planning, from today, churches can register to take part in the campaign and download a wealth of resources, (co-produced with Roots, 4Front Theatre, and Loud Fence) to help them run a service (or part of one). There is also a communications pack to help denominations and churches share with their members that they are taking part.

Please can I ask that you let your churches and denominations know about this campaign? Last year over 5000 churches took part, this year we want to see even more churches commit to taking action on safeguarding. I have attached the comms pack, which has a template email you can use, if that is helpful, or feel free to pass to your communications teams, as there are

press releases, social media graphics and slide deck templates to use too.

Additionally:

- You can read more about the vision and purpose of the campaign here.
- You can register to take part and get your resources here.

Thank you for your support with this campaign. The feedback we get each year is incredible. People who have made first-time disclosures and got support, churches who get more willing volunteers and safeguarding leads who feel understood and validated in their roles. And most importantly, whole congregations are learning that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, which in turn creates safer places for all.



You can download the information pack [here](#).

Out of School Settings Safeguarding

Out-of-School Settings Safeguarding – Extension to consultation

Parish Safeguarding. The Department for Education is calling for evidence to help shape future safeguarding policy for the Out-of-School Settings (OOSS) sector. This

includes providers such as tuition centres, sports and arts clubs, youth groups (e.g. Scouts and Brownies), holiday camps/activity centres, and faith-based education settings: **Out-of-School Settings Safeguarding: Call for evidence - Department for Education - Citizen Space**. 31:8 have produced a helpful briefing document ([attached](#)). Please do circulate this widely within your networks in order that those most impacted can have their say. Closing date is now **21st September**.



Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Update

Rather than redrafting and updating the Parish Safeguarding Handbook the National Safeguarding Team are developing a Parish Safeguarding Toolkit. There are already existing resources that have been uploaded to a new **Parish Safeguarding Resources** Page, and we are hoping the next set of documents will be going through a consultation process in the next few weeks, and will then be uploaded. We are aiming that most of the new and revised documents and resources will be uploaded by January, however, this is not a static document in the way the Handbook was. It will continually be added



to, revised and improved according to need and feedback on an ongoing basis. We will continue to update here as new resources are added.

Parish Safeguarding Hub – Service Agreement

From 15 September you will have noticed the Parish Hubs displayed the following message

Please accept the Service Agreement

Following a consultation with all participating dioceses, the Service Agreement sets out the responsibilities of both the provider and the users of a Safeguarding Hub.

It must be accepted by an authorised Hub Owner on behalf of the PCC before 1st December, 2025.

For more information, please go to **Hub Settings** and then **Service Agreement** at the bottom of this page.

All Hub Owners, Should also have received an e-mail with the following link
<https://www.safeguardinghubs.org.uk/service-e-agreement>

From Monday 15 September, any parish that wants to start using their *Safeguarding Hub* must accept the *Service Agreement* first.

Existing Hubs will work as normal, but a reminder will be sent to any Hub Owners that have not yet accepted the *Service Agreement*. On **31 October**.

On **1 December**, a further reminder will be sent to any Hub Owners that have still not accepted the *Service Agreement*. Access to their Hub will be temporarily suspended, but it will be restored as soon as the *Service Agreement* has been accepted.

Once a parish has accepted the *Service Agreement*, they will be asked to answer the following question...

Allow your Diocesan Safeguarding Team to view this Hub?

☐ Yes (recommended)

☐ No

☒ Not sure

The Diocesan Bishop has a legal obligation to ensure that the diocese has arrangements in place to monitor and support safeguarding arrangements in parishes.

A parish can help the Bishop to fulfil this obligation by allowing the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to view their Hub. In particular, it enables them to:

- To provide system support
- To provide safeguarding advice
- To audit safeguarding records

[Read more](#)

Update on the Ineqe Audit

The Purpose of the INEQE Audit Programme

- The purpose of these audits is to make sure dioceses, cathedrals and palaces are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.
- It's a chance for us to shine a light on what's working, spot any gaps, and strengthen how we safeguard everyone across the diocese and cathedral communities.
- Think of it as a safeguarding health check—with a big dose of collaboration and reflection!

The Diocese of Ely Timeline

- October 2025 – Information gathering and surveys
- On-site visit – 2nd - 6th February 2026
- One to one discussions
- Focus groups

Key audit dates and times will be shared on the diocesan website when available.

What happens next: What we need from you!

We are encouraging those parishes who have not yet engaged in the dashboard to do so as this is what INEQE will look at to

ensure our parishes are compliant with the national standards. For support with getting the dashboard operational contact a member of the safeguarding team. Ensure those within your Parish have the appropriate training and that your safer recruitment processes are robust and consistent.

In the next few months we will likely call on you for support in preparation the pre-audit evidence and in particular examples of good practice in relation to the five standards. Please help with this as best you can!

As part of the audit process, the team from INEQE Safeguarding Group would like to engage with a wide spectrum of individuals from dioceses, parishes and cathedral communities through online surveys. These surveys will act as a mechanism through which individuals can comment on matters relevant to the audit's focus. Participation in the surveys is optional. The surveys are both anonymous (the audit team are not seeking to identify individuals) and confidential (individuals will not be identified in INEQE's report). The purpose of the surveys is to enable the audit team to conduct a wider analysis of practice across Church bodies and give individuals the opportunity to contribute to the audit.

No one from the Church of England or other body will be provided with or have access to the survey responses. Have your say! It's important for as many voices as possible to be represented, so that the auditors gain a true picture of the safeguarding culture in our diocese.

- There will be various opportunities for people across the diocese to

engage and participate in the audit process whether through completing questionnaires that will be circulated prior to the audit visit or participating in focus groups discussions.

- Therefore, please save the dates 2-6th February 2026. You will not be required to be free for the whole three days; however, we do not as yet have the timetable - watch this space and please hold these dates for now.

Thank you to everyone in advance for contributing any time, information, and commitment to this important work.

PSO Welcome Pack



The work of overseeing safeguarding is one of the most supportive and important tasks undertaken by the Parochial Church Council (PCC). In this work we demonstrate safe

caring for one another, and our commitment to the flourishing of all in a tangible way. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) does not need to be a member of the PCC but is the point of contact to champion safeguarding in the parish on behalf of the PCC. When we say safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in your parish, that's because it is a shared responsibility where we each play a small but significant part. No one should

feel alone or overwhelmed with the ministry of safeguarding in our communities.

For this reason, the National Safeguarding Team have designed a welcome pack to be used by PSOs, incumbents, PCCs and the whole Church community as appropriate and have tried to make clear the ways in which responsibilities are shared amongst these roles. As Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) you may at times feel unsure about your role and it is our hope that this pack will help give you confidence and resources to allay your uncertainty.

A copy of the pack should have arrived with this newsletter. However, if you have not received a copy please contact Sarah King. sarah.king@elydiocese.org

Raise your Roar with Roarry - Thirtyone:eight Children's Resources



What is 'Raise Your Roar With Roarry'? 'Raise your roar with Roarry' is a safeguarding resource

designed to equip and empower primary-age children to speak up about their concerns.

It's estimated that as many as 1 in 5 children will experience at least one type of abuse in childhood, but many children don't tell anyone about it because they are unsure how to say it and who to tell.

Children need to know that they can, and should, speak up when they feel worried,

frightened, or unsure about something, know who they can speak to, and that they will be listened to and believed. These are important lessons for children to learn, and all settings should include this teaching as part of raising awareness around safeguarding.

We know that talking to children about safeguarding issues can feel daunting. Raise your Roar has been specifically designed to help children's leaders confidently address issues of emotions, harm and abuse with children within a faith-based setting.

Contact the Team

Safeguarding Cases and Incidents

HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING:

Sarah Kennedy

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ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

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ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

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ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING
ADVISER:

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**Training, Criminal Record Checks (DBS) and
Parish Safeguarding Officer Support**

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Sarah King

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SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE
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SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE
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