

DIOCESE OF ELY

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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 13 January 2026

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13 January at 10am. We will be joined by Robert Reynolds, the East of England Regional Outreach Adviser for the Disclosure and Barring Service. Robert will give a presentation on eligibility. This will further help us understand the particular criteria needing to be met when applying for an Enhanced with barred list check, an Enhanced and a Basic DBS check. [Please remember to book and indicate whether you will join by Zoom or in person.](#)

Sharing Good Practice

Each time we meet, we would like to think about what is working well in your areas, share examples of good practice and/or the development of useful tools or ways of working in Parishes. If the safeguarding team have good examples to share, we will

ask your permission before bringing the example to this forum. Please have a think, before each network meeting, about anything you have recently introduced, in relation to keeping people safe in your Parish, that you could / would like to share. If it involves any individuals, please remember the importance of confidentiality and anonymise anything you may bring. If there are examples of new forms / paperwork or files, please forward these to the Safeguarding Team ahead of the meeting and we will share on screen during the meeting. Let's celebrate the great things that are happening in Ely and share our ideas as we continue to develop our safeguarding practices!

PSO Training Requirements

Please can we remind you the Parish Safeguarding Officers are required to complete the following Safeguarding Training courses – We mention this as we have noticed a sizable number of gaps in some PSOs training records.

Course	Renewal period
Basic Awareness	Once completed is not required to be repeated
Foundation	Once completed is not required to be repeated
Leadership	Every 3 yrs

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse	Every 3 yrs
Safer Recruitment and People Management	Every 3 yrs

There is also the additional PSO Induction course required for new PSOs.

Please check and make sure your training is up to date to ensure you are meeting the House of Bishops' requirements for this role.

DBS Update Service

You may have noticed on the uCheck Platform there is an option to access the DBS Update Service check website. We would please ask you not to use this service via this link. If you have a volunteer who has subscribed to the DBS Update Service, there are various required checks that need completing prior to carrying out a status check. As previously, when using APCS, please contact either [Sarah King](#) or [Jackie Williamson](#) who will provide you with the required information and a form for completion and return to enable them to carry out the status check. Once the check is completed, they will confirm whether the appointment can go ahead or continue.

Processing the checks this way ensures the process is completed as per DBS requirements and the results are interpreted correctly as the guidance can sometimes be rather confusing.

Inequa Audit Update

Thank you to all those who completed the Survey for our INEQE Audit. The Survey is an important part of the process and the responses that were submitted will enable the auditors to develop a true sense of where the Diocese is in regard to their Safeguarding 'journey'. All the required information and documentation for the audit

was submitted on 2nd December 2025 and this is currently being reviewed by the auditors ahead of their visit in February 2026. The virtual discussions and focus groups will begin on Monday 26th January with the Auditors site visit is scheduled for w/c 2nd February. Following their visit, a report will be published with their findings and recommendations, and this will be made publicly available on the INEQE website. We will outline and discuss the key findings in the PSO network meeting on 20 April.

Leadership Course Guidance

Our Training Administrator, Kelly Nott, has created some straightforward guidance for anyone who finds navigating the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal challenging and needs access to the Leadership course. [Click here for guidance](#).

If you have anyone who need to complete the Leadership course, please share this guidance with them.

Future Plans – PSO Conference

The Safeguarding Team is planning to host a conference for Parish Safeguarding Officers later this year, likely in late September or October.

We want this event to be as useful and relevant as possible, so we'd love to hear your ideas. What topics would you find most helpful?

We can offer workshops on areas we already cover, such as:

- DBS Checks
- Parish Safeguarding Dashboard
- Safer Working Practice

We're also considering sessions on topics such as:

- Managing Risk in a Church Context
- Writing Risk Assessments
- Writing logs of concern
- A Basic Introduction to Being Trauma Informed

Do you have other suggestions for workshops or content? Please share your ideas by emailing [Sarah King](#). Your input will help us shape a conference that truly supports you in your role.

Date of 2026 meetings

20 April.

22 July

September/October TBC

And please don't forget the PSO Evensong and Garden Party on 9 June.

Contact the Team

Safeguarding Cases and Incidents

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

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