



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

RECENT UPDATES

August 2023

Welcome to the summer edition of Safeguarding eNews

We are delighted to bring you this update on safeguarding that is particularly focused on summer activities and events - as we would like to draw your attention to some of the notices and resources available.



We would also like to welcome Alison Baalham to our team. Alison will be offering a supportive role to our team and will specifically assist with DBSs. Alison joined us at the beginning of July, and is looking forward to working with and getting to know you all.

Over the last few months we were delighted to see many of you at our four Q+A safeguarding sessions. These sessions were well attended and your feedback showed they were well received and useful. Thank you for coming along! We are planning further events, and once finalised, they will be advertised in eNews with booking through our Eventbrite page.

We hope that you found these Safeguarding eNews helpful, but as always, we would welcome your comments/ideas on how we can improve our communication with you.

The Safeguarding Team

Team Contact Details

Safeguarding Administrator

Alison Baalham | alison.baalham@cofesuffolk.org

Work mobile | 07468 474252

Hello, all! I am excited to be with you, to contribute to the good work of safeguarding that



churches do. In my role I will be covering a lot of the admin side of safeguarding, assisting with DBSs and queries about the day-to-day workings and formalities. My working days are Tuesday to Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm. Please feel free to contact me with any admin queries or ponderings.

Safeguarding Trainers



Lisa Hicks | lisa.hicks@cofesuffolk.org

Work mobile | 07485 329226

Mark and I work to co-ordinate and deliver training throughout the diocese. Although some of our courses are delivered online, we are increasingly getting back into Churches and church halls to deliver face-to-face training. As I am based in the West of the County, you will mainly find me delivering training in the Archdeaconry of Sudbury. I also work alongside Mark to deliver training in Ipswich.

I work part-time, 17.5 hours a week. I normally work Mondays plus any other day, evening or weekend that best fits with your training requirements.



Mark Bee | mark.bee@cofesuffolk.org

Work mobile | 07483 006378

As part of the Diocese Safeguarding Team, I work with Lisa to co-ordinate and deliver training throughout the diocese. This is a job share of 17.5 hours a week and I normally work Wednesdays and Thursdays plus any other day, evening, or weekend that best fits with your training requirements. I am based in Beccles where I am part of the Ministry Team there as a second-year curate. I largely am

delivering training in the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. I also work alongside Lisa to deliver training in Ipswich.

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer



Karen Galloway | safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org

Work mobile | 07785621319

My job is to help you to assess and take the right action in relation to any safeguarding concerns you have. I am happy to talk through situations even if you are not sure that it is a safeguarding concern - it is much better to have a chat about it than worry about what you should or shouldn't do! If I can't deal directly with the matter, I often know of an organisation who can help. Please feel free to ring me or email me. Other aspects of my role include offering

management support to the rest of the safeguarding team and implementing new policies and procedures as they are developed by the National Church.

Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

Catherine Banthorp | safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org

Work Mobile | 07394 568403



My role is to work alongside, and support Karen in helping assess and take the right action in relation to any safeguarding concerns you have. Like Karen, I am happy to talk through a situation even if you are not sure that it is a safeguarding concern and I do believe having a chat is always helpful. My working days are usually Monday -Wednesday 9am - 5pm.

Concerns and Disclosures

If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention call the emergency services on 999. Do not delay.

If you have a concern, suspicion or allegation of abuse by observation, victim disclosure, abuser disclosure, report by another person or anonymous communication please contact:

- Our email address, safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org
- [Karen Galloway](#), Diocesan Safeguarding Officer on 07785 621319 (available 9.00am to 5.00pm)
- Bishop's Office: 01473 252829.

If you have any other concerns, or have received any disclosures, please contact the safeguarding team. You may also find the following link useful as it provides a list of helpful information and links to organisations - [click here](#).

Raising awareness of safeguarding - Promoting a Safer Church

Noticeboards and websites

As summer approaches and we may have more visitors to our churches we would like to remind everyone of the importance of having up to date safeguarding information on display in every church across the diocese. We would ask that checks are made to ensure that your church has a Safeguarding Poster displaying the correct contact details and that safeguarding information features on your websites. We would also encourage you to display the posters and QR codes for the Safe Space project which can be found on our website [here](#).

If you are new to the role, here is a list of the information that you need to include on your website home page.

1. A link to www.cofesuffolk.org/concerns-and-contacts
2. The name and contact details of your Parish/Benefice Safeguarding Officer
3. A formal statement saying that your PCC has adopted the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; and your safeguarding policy statement
4. A link to a copy of your policy which should be signed on behalf of the PCC

5. Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues (these are contained on the Promoting a Safer Church Poster and on the Diocesan website).

If you do not have a website you can add this information to your page on www.AChurchNearYou.com.

Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 19 November 2023

Run by the charity Thirtyone:eight each November, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions across the UK come together to reflect on their own safeguarding journey, and to highlight and celebrate all the good work that is being done by so many behind the scenes to protect vulnerable people. To receive your digital church resource pack and to register your church please visit the website [here](#).

Children at risk this summer

Children's charity, Barnardo's has warned that more children are at risk of exploitation during the summer as families struggle to afford activities during the school holidays and children spend more time without adult supervision whilst online or out in the community.

Exclusive online polling of 729 GB children aged 11-17, and 1,191 GB parents and carers shows this summer will be particularly difficult for families because of the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living-crisis. Almost half of parents and carers (46%) surveyed said they will struggle to afford family holidays and days out. One in four (26%) can't fund activities like childcare and holiday clubs, and one in five (21%) won't be able to afford to time off work to spend with their children. Read the full article [here](#).

The Clewer Institute are offering webinars on:

County Lines for Foster Parents

Friday 13 October 10.00am-12.00pm book [here](#).

County Lines for Parents, Grandparents and Guardians

Thursday 19 October 10.00am-11.00am book [here](#).

Photographs and Safeguarding for volunteers

As we enjoy our summer events, please make sure that all safeguarding precautions are in place and that your volunteers, if required, have up to date DBS and safeguarding training in place prior to taking on the role.

Please also remember that if you plan to take any photos of summer events you will need to have obtained written permission. You can find the relevant templates [here](#).



DBS

DBS 3-year Renewal

Thank you to everyone who continues to review the DBS checks for their parish in the move from the five year to three year renewal. A reminder that we have until **January 2024** to ensure that everyone has an in-date DBS certificate to conform with the three year renewal cycle.

If you are not sure which DBS a role needs, see this helpful list available: [here](#)

When starting applications, please remember to use the drop-down menu to indicate the correct role for the application.

If someone decides to step down from a role and you have started their DBS application, please let us know so that we can withdraw it. In addition, if one of your Readers or Elders steps down from their role please inform us so that we can keep our records and our DBS checks up to date.

DBS Update Service

We often receive queries relating to the update service. We rely on people telling us that they have signed up to the update service because it is a self-registered service. It isn't quite as straightforward as people anticipate - in order to complete a check the following process needs to be followed:

1. The certificate holder grants permission for a check to be made.
2. The following details are required: the number of the certificate registered, the person's date of birth, and the surname which is on the certificate.
3. A check can then be undertaken, but will only disclose whether there have been any changes since the certificate was issued.
4. The original certificate will still need to be viewed to check that the workforces recorded on it cover those required by the role.

For example: if the certificate registered on the update service only covers working with children and the current role requires a check for children and adults, it cannot be used. However, if the role involves only working with children and that was the original check, then we accept the certificate registered with the update service, and will not need to do a new application.

Training

Over the last few weeks, there has been a disappointing uptake of our safeguarding courses. Please strongly encourage all those who need training to register for training. If you have a query about the level of training someone requires, the information can be found on the diocesan website [here](#) or through contacting one of the safeguarding team.

Remember that it is the individual's responsibility to update their training every three years and to keep their Safeguarding officer informed.

All training events for the remainder of the year are on Eventbrite. We continue to offer a range of times and days of the week. If someone is struggling to find an available course, please email safeguardingtraining@cofesuffolk.org as we often have last minute cancellations.

Please find our 'How To' guide for accessing and booking courses using Eventbrite: [How To Book onto Safeguarding Training.docx](#)

We have recruited a number of volunteer trainers, thank you very much to those who have volunteered. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in becoming a volunteer trainer, contact Catherine Banthorp: catherine.banthorp@cofesuffolk.org

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse

Lisa and Mark have been developing material for putting on face-to-face training for Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. There will be two pilot training events, see below:

Wednesday 6 September 2023, 10.00am

The Thomas Clarkson Centre, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds, England, IP33 3JT - [book here](#)

Tuesday 3 October 2023, 2.30pm

Bungay Community Centre, Old Grammar Lane, Bungay, England, NR35 1PU - [book here](#)

Thank you for all your continued hard work and dedication in meeting the challenges of Promoting a Safer Church, and we hope that you all have a fulfilling Summer.

Dear God,

Help us to be a church that:

Loves, welcomes, protects.

Listens, learns, serves.

Repents, restores, transforms.

Values, cares, believes.

God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer.

Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

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