



Summer 2026

Welcome to our latest Safeguarding Newsletter, keeping you up to date with the latest developments and news. This edition will cover upcoming changes to DBS and training opportunities, information about our upcoming PSO Networking Day, and much more.

We hope you are all managing to stay cool and have some downtime planned as this Summer continues to break records.



Ben Goodhind
Safeguarding Manager

Planned 31:8 Downtime

Please be aware that due to a behind-the-scenes upgrade the 31:8 system will be unavailable from 18:00 on Friday 21 August until 08:00 on Monday 24 August.

During this time, applications already with the DBS will continue to be processed. However, no results will be returned, and it will not be possible to submit new applications while the system is offline.

Change to DBS requirements for those working with children

Changes to DBS requirements for individuals who work with children come into effect from 1 September 2026.

Before 1 September 2026

Currently people who teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children, may be eligible for an Enhanced DBS check in the child workforce. However, if they are supervised by someone who is already in regulated activity with children, they are not classed as being in regulated activity themselves. This means organisations cannot request a Children's Barred List check for that supervised role.

From 1 September 2026

From this date, the supervision rule will no longer apply. This means that if a person teaches, trains, instructs, cares for or supervises children for four or more days in any 30-day period, or overnight, they will now be classed as being in regulated activity with children, even if someone else supervises them.

This means organisations will be able to ask for an Enhanced DBS check in the child workforce and a Children's Barred List check.

You can find out more about these changes and see helpful examples to guide you [on the gov.uk website](#).

More information from the DBS and 31:8 on what action to take moving forward will be available shortly. The Bath and Wells DBS flow charts will also be updated ahead of the changes, to reflect the new guidance, so they are ready to be implemented as soon as it comes into effect on 1 September.

Leadership training changes for LWAs and LPAs

Leadership training is no longer mandatory for Lay Worship and Lay Pastoral Assistants. This follows discussions with the National Safeguarding Team and our diocesan colleagues in the Mission Support and Mission Development team.

Now, people undertaking these roles will only have to complete Basic Awareness, Foundation, and Domestic Abuse Awareness training.

People in these roles are encouraged to attend leadership training if their parish is in a lengthy period of vacancy (12 months or more), or if they have a significant influence on the culture of safeguarding in their local context.

Please note, however, that this will be decided on locally, not at a diocesan level.

PSO Networking Day

A limited number of spaces are still available for the Parish Safeguarding Officer Networking Day taking place Saturday 5 September 10:00 at Flourish House, Wells.

The morning will include workshops on the DBS system, dashboards and hubs, working with individuals on safety plans, and the opportunity to complete the PSO induction.

After lunch, Becca Faal, Director of Styles and Faal Safeguarding, will lead sessions on trauma informed practice and PSO wellbeing.

If you have not already booked your place, you can do so [via Eventbrite](#).

Safeguarding Sunday

Registration is now open for Safeguarding Sunday which takes place on 15 November. This year's theme is inspired by 1 Corinthians 13, which reminds us that love "always protects", and is aimed at helping churches explore safeguarding as an expression of care, protection and love.

Visit the [Safeguarding Sunday](#) website to register for your guide and resources.

Simplify safeguarding administration with Safeguarding Hubs

Safeguarding Hubs provide parishes with a simple, secure, and practical way to manage safeguarding administration in one place. Designed specifically for the Church of England, the Hub helps churches stay organised, compliant, and informed.

A Safeguarding Hub can support your parish to

- Track DBS checks and safeguarding training:
Keep accurate records and see at a glance who is up to date and where action is needed.
- Create role descriptions and person specifications:
Generate key recruitment and governance documents directly through the Hub.
- Support safer recruitment:
Manage the recruitment journey for new volunteers and ensure safeguarding requirements are completed consistently.
- Secure and parish-focused:
Developed to help parishes manage safeguarding responsibilities clearly and efficiently whilst maintaining GDPR compliance.

Many parishes start by using the Hub to keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training. Often, they also find it can help with a wider range of tasks, including people management and safer recruitment. The Hub is designed to be straightforward for new users, so you can begin with the essentials and make use of additional features as your parish needs them.

To get set up on your Safeguarding Hub, please email safe.guarding@bathwells.anglican.org with your name and parish.

For more information about the Safeguarding Hub, visit: [Safeguarding Hubs](#)



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