



New Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Suzanne Mitchell has now settled into the post of full-time Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and has already met a number of reps and clergy.

She is delighted by the very positive support for Safeguarding that she has found in the Diocese, and is keen to see this grow in the run-up to the new Independent Safeguarding Authority which begins work in October 2009 (see separate box).

The next step in her getting to know the Diocese is to meet the clergy at Deanery meetings. A start will be made in Leeds in March, and she hopes to visit all the Deaneries during the course of the year. If any Deans would like a visit sooner rather than later please just call and say so!

Fr John Kelly

We are delighted to report that Fr John Kelly is up and running again and well on the way to a complete recovery from his recent illness.

Having relinquished the role of Safeguarding Co-ordinator he has taken on the critical role of Clergy Liaison with the Safeguarding Commission. This direct link between the clergy and the Commission helps to ensure that the clergy's voice is heard in any decisions taken by the Commission, and that the Commission can benefit from their input.

Parish Rep Survey Results

Many thanks to all reps who returned the Survey forms in September - the response rate was about 30%. Whilst we do not know quite what the remaining 70% think, can we assume that you are broadly happy with the way things are? And please be assured that we will do our best to address the concerns that were raised, especially on training, and on how to move things on from the paperwork into Safeguarding proper. The paperwork is very important, but unless everybody in a parish is vigilant it is all just that - paperwork! If any clergy would like a copy of the survey questionnaire - please just let us know.

Over the last year or two, what has gone well?	Very good progress with CRB checks
	Parishioners increasingly appreciate the need for Safeguarding
	Support from the Leeds office and the parish priest
What has not gone so well?	More support needed from the parish and individual volunteers, with strong resistance from a significant number of individuals
	Paperwork, and the demands of COPCA (CSAS)
	Lack of support from the parish priest
	Moving perceptions on from the paperwork into Safeguarding proper
	In a small but encouraging number of parishes - no problems!
What are your safeguarding concerns for the near future?	Continuing changes in paperwork, with ISA and repeat CRBs
	How to go beyond the checks into Safeguarding proper
	Clergy support
	None - a significant number had no real concerns
How can the Diocesan Office help with these concerns?	Enlist support of Bishop and clergy
	Guidance on where next
	Visit from Suzanne [You only have to ask - 0113 2618 059]
	"We are confident that the office will support us..." [We will!]
Training Questions: Almost all reps had had training, and most had found it very useful. Priorities now include:	Help with paperwork and interviews - the details of safe recruitment
	Keeping up with new developments (especially ISA)
	Meeting other reps and sharing experiences
	What to do if things happen in a parish - basic awareness
	Helping different groups in the parish with Safe Environment concerns

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) - Newsletters

CSAS has now produced three more of its bi-monthly newsletters on ISA themes. Their purpose is to keep us all informed about the new Authority and to explain its practical implications for all those working within the church.

Issue 5 in August made the point that even though you may be registered with the ISA via another organisation [e.g. your employer] you may still have to complete a (further) CRB Disclosure so that your organisation [e.g. the church] can be aware of any convictions, cautions or warnings which are relevant to the role applied for. That issue also reminded us that you only need a CRB Disclosure if you are working [as a leader/helper] with children or vulnerable adults.

Issue 6 in October provided updated definitions: the "Vetting & Barring Scheme" is the registration scheme, and the ISA is the decision-making body regarding who is deemed unsuitable to work with vulnerable groups.

Issue 7 in December said that while the Church is now a model of best practice [in Safeguarding], and that the levels of both vigilance in parishes and the obtaining of CRB checks was very encouraging and positive, it was possible to have too much of a good thing [!] and reminded us all that CRB checks should only be done for those who are or will be performing a role with vulnerable groups. There was also a brief Glossary and an announcement that the long-awaited parish pack was now available.

I must stress that these notes are just an indication of what the ISA Newsletters contain; CSAS have asked us not to dilute their message, to make all reps and clergy aware of what they say, and to make them available to anybody who wants them. All seven issues (two pages each) can be downloaded from the Documents page of the CSAS website at <http://www.csas.uk.net>. If you want me to send you copies, just let me know. The ISA website is at www.isa-gov.org.uk.

The Parish Pack

The long-awaited parish pack has now arrived – or at least, we now have **one** copy. It weighs in at 1.5 kgs of 120 glossy pages, complete with cover, and comes with leaflets and summary cards to hand out to volunteers. The Diocese is responsible for making copies to send to parishes, and CSAS quotes £40 each – so we are looking around for an alternative quote. We hope to do a special mailing of the pack early next year, with a training session to follow. Watch this space....

Admin leave

The Office will be closed as usual over Christmas and the New Year. I shall be taking a break for two weeks from Tuesday 4 February – back on Friday 20 February. Suzanne plans to be away in late February and at Easter.

In the meantime, if you want either to hear from her or to tell her anything, just call **0113 2618 059**. For all admin enquiries, please continue to use the number in my office: **0113 2618 046**.

Updating parish lists....

Please help me to keep the parish lists up-to-date – especially where volunteers who have been 'on the books' for some time have decided not to continue to a Disclosure. Some parishes have had volunteers like this for more than three years, and I will shortly remove them from the list unless you say differently.

Training needs – if you would like training for Safeguarding, managing volunteers, CRB paperwork, or anything else, just tell Suzanne!

Many thanks to all reps for their continued support of the cause – and I know that a number of you still face opposition from the volunteers. Keep smiling!
And all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.... Stephen Hanslip

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