



How to communicate and promote safeguarding with different audiences

Aims of the workshop

- In your current role, consider who you are trying to communicate with.
- Why is it important these people understand what safeguarding is, and what good safeguarding practice should look like in their context.
- What are the barriers to communication.
- How can these barriers be overcome- sharing ideas.
- Action planning.

Audiences

- In your current role, who you are trying to communicate and promote safeguarding to?

Group exercise 1

Why is it important these people understand what safeguarding is, and what good safeguarding practice should look like in their context?

Theology

- Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.” Proverbs 31:8
- “Love your neighbour as yourself” Matthew 22:39
- There are over 2,000 references to matters of justice and injustice in the Bible; of which the principles of safeguarding are included. Care, food, shelter etc.
- Professional curiosity- the Bible records Jesus asking approximately 305 questions

National Safeguarding Standards

Standard 1	PREVENTION Church Bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.
Standard 2	CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY Church bodies have the safe and healthy culture, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.
Standard 3	RECOGNISING, ASSESSING AND MANAGING RISK Risk assessments, Safeguarding Agreements and associated processes are of a high standard and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working.
Standard 4	VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively helping the healing process and meeting their needs.
Standard 5	LEARNING, SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

Victims and Survivors

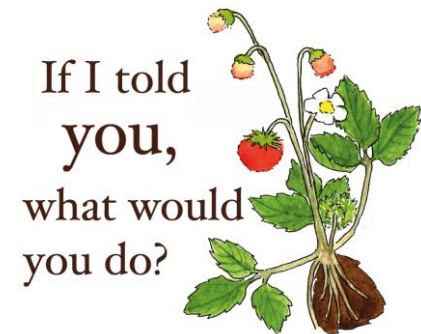
- **National Safeguarding Standards – Standard 4**
 - “Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively meeting their needs, including their search for justice and helping their healing process”.

Oakley & Wright (2023) Developing understanding and effective responses to domestic abuse in the Christian faith community

- A very large majority of respondents disclosed abuse to a person with a role in the Christian faith context.
- A large majority of those who disclosed to a person in the Christian faith community were not referred for support (71%)
- In cases where there was abuse a significant majority of abusers used Christian teachings to support/excuse the abuse whether or not they were Christians themselves. This included using scripture.
- Less than half of respondents had heard about domestic abuse in sermons, prayers or church meetings
- For those who had experienced psychological/emotional abuse the longer ago they disclosed the more likely the response was unhelpful- this suggests progress is being made!

If I told you what would you

'If I Told You, What Would You Do?' is the name of a strategy jointly funded by Safe Spaces and the Diocese of Newcastle which aims to engage with survivors of faith-based abuse, as well as with those who need to see, hear and respond well to them.



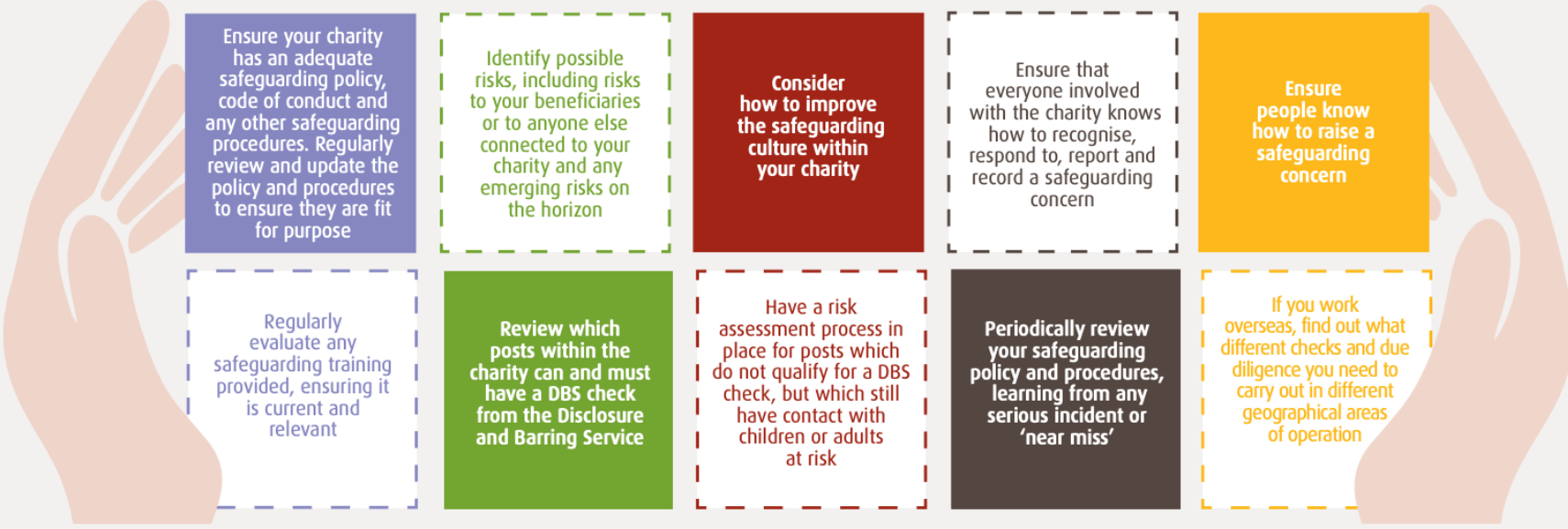


Legal responsibilities

- Care Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026
- Charity commission

10 actions trustee boards need to take to ensure good safeguarding governance

Safeguarding should be a key governance priority for all charities



Ensure your charity has an adequate safeguarding policy, code of conduct and any other safeguarding procedures. Regularly review and update the policy and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose

Identify possible risks, including risks to your beneficiaries or to anyone else connected to your charity and any emerging risks on the horizon

Consider how to improve the safeguarding culture within your charity

Ensure that everyone involved with the charity knows how to recognise, respond to, report and record a safeguarding concern

Ensure people know how to raise a safeguarding concern

Regularly evaluate any safeguarding training provided, ensuring it is current and relevant

Review which posts within the charity can and must have a DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service

Have a risk assessment process in place for posts which do not qualify for a DBS check, but which still have contact with children or adults at risk

Periodically review your safeguarding policy and procedures, learning from any serious incident or 'near miss'

If you work overseas, find out what different checks and due diligence you need to carry out in different geographical areas of operation



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Group exercise 2

What are the barriers to effective communication around safeguarding?

Group exercise 3

How can we overcome these barriers/ change the narrative around safeguarding?

Communication

- Clarity and accessibility
- Use a variety of communication methods
- Communicate consistently and regularly
- Create space for discussion and listen well.
- Human stories
- Leaders need to model good safeguarding practice-
trust can be quickly eroded when words and actions
do not match.

Things to consider- adults at risk of harm

- Every adult is different and communication should be tailored to individual needs.
- Have visual and Easy-Read versions of safeguarding posters and processes.
- Have information available in translation if needed.
- Introduce your PSO in group activities e.g at your lunch club or dementia cafe
- Provide training for staff and volunteers in how to communicate well with people with disabilities so relationships of trust can be built – an important part of a safe and healthy culture.
- If someone in your community has a particular access need, reflect on your safeguarding processes with them in mind. Are they safe in your activities? Are they able to raise a safeguarding concern should they need to?

Video to help children understand safeguarding in their context - can be found on the portal along with lesson plans.



Bible stories & videos

[View and download](#)



Colouring & puzzles

[View and download](#)



Crafts & worksheets

[View and download](#)



Games, song & activities

[View and download](#)

Raise your Roar with Roarry 31:8

Culture Cube- 31:8



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

**SAVE THE DATE: 15TH
NOVEMBER 2026**



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2026

Registration for the new 'Guide to Safeguarding Sunday' and resource library coming in July 2026.

[2025 resources are still available here](#)

'If I Told You, What Would You Do?' Newcastle Diocese and safe spaces



Reflections

- How can the diocesan safeguarding and communications teams support you.
- Action plans to take back to discuss with your incumbent/PSO/PCC.

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