Lincolnshire District Safeguarding Newsletter November 2026

A way of sharing information, improving communication and building a safe and positive culture.

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1. Introduction.

Hi again everyone, many thanks for the positive feedback about having the newsletter back. You will find sometimes there is loads to include and at other times, less but whichever it is, it will give you up-to-date information that you will benefit from.

2. The Changing Seasons and Safeguarding

It really is quite amazing how times has flown and here we are with darker nights and soon to be darker mornings.

There will be no face-to-face safeguarding meeting in the evenings until further notice and any training face to face sessions will always be finished by 2pm to give people chance to get home before dark.

Therefore, we will take advantage of the wonderful provision of zoom. For those who don't have access to zoom, we will need to support each other as appropriate and gather around laptops which we often do for safeguarding training.

3. The new Connexional Safeguarding Service - formal independent review.

It was on the 1st of August 2026 that the new service started after a year of transition into new roles and structures.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter briefly, there is now a review taking place to review how people feel the new safeguarding service has impacted on people on a day-to-day basis.

Certain groups of people are going to be invited to take part, but this is YOUR INVITATION should you wish to make any comments, please forward them to me or Alison and they can be forwarded to the independent reviewer, Graham Tilby.

4 Reminders:

Domestic Abuse webinar with Sally Hope – 25 November 2026

On 25 November 2026 at 11.00am to 12.00 noon, **Sally Hope** will present a webinar on the issue of domestic abuse which is common in our churches and church communities.

Writer, trainer and recovery practitioner, Sally Hope is the author of Always Hopeful, an eleven-week recovery programme for Christian women who have experienced Domestic Abuse.

A survivor herself, Sally spent several years working in a women's refuge facilitating recovery programmes and coaching women to rebuild their lives free from abuse. She recognised the lack of support for those women who had experienced spiritual abuse as part of the domestic abuse and so developed a programme that, with training, can be delivered by any church or ministry to support Christian women to make sense of their faith in light of their experience of abuse.

Sally now trains others to deliver Always Hopeful as well as writing books, recovery resources, and articles about issues related to faith, feminism and domestic abuse.

Advance Registration is essential.

Register on Zoom for Domestic abuse webinar with Sally Hope

DBS Workshops: Understanding eligibility for DBS Checks

The DBS are holding Disclosure Eligibility workshops.

- Tuesday 24 November at 13:00

Book on Eventbrite for Eligibility workshops

Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse - Essential Insights for Professionals (with Joe Sullivan)

One-Day course | Thursday 26 November – Westminster, London | £50 or
One-Day course | Friday 27 November – Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester | £50

‘Dr Sullivan, the internationally renowned forensic psychologist, will challenge some of the myths which exist about perpetrators and the level of risk they actually pose to children in our society.’

Read more and book

5.Recording and Safeguarding – District practice

Recording is not necessarily everyone's joy. As I often say in training, back in the day it was good if you recorded. We then went on to it being more of a necessity and now it is seen as essential as part of a strong policy requirement but to be accountable for our responses and actions.

Some recent situations have highlighted the benefits of good recording in being able to quickly refer to it to be reminded of the chronology of concerns and the actions taken along the way. In other situations, the lack of recording, even at a basic level has meant that the wider context of the pattern of concerns hasn't been fully appreciated.

There are some key points for us to remember:

- Many day-to-day things which don't need to be passed to me, or even a safeguarding officer, need to be recorded somewhere even if as a note in your diary. It just needs to be somewhere so if we need revisit it later, there is recorded somewhere the first or earliest concerns;
- This is especially important for anyone involved in pastoral ministry. Recently the Local Authority Adult services were greatly helped because a pastoral visitor in the District who was able to identify a particular date and time when they first visited someone who had subsequently become more vulnerable;
- The official form for recording those concerns that come to me is the DISTRICT RESPONDING WELL CONCERN FORM. This is the formal record of such concerns and as previously mentioned, I will guide you when and how this should be completed once I have discussed the concern with you.

- People come before Paper – action should take place ahead of any nots or forms being done.

Important recording considerations:

- This is not restricted to safeguarding but especially in such concerns, any disagreements MUST be recorded. This should be customary practice really in all meetings but in safeguarding situations if disagreements or alternative views are not recorded, the impression will be that everyone agrees with final decisions;

- Messages via texts and WhatsApp are not necessarily the best way to share information on a more formal level but if they are used, it is essential that they are not deleted and can be translated into any running record that many be needed later;

- Something to remember under GDPR is that it is not acceptable to introduce someone new to an email thread who has not been in it from the start. Should you need to do this, you will need to start a new thread. This has cropped up more recently where information in the earlier thread was not suitable for others to read because it broke confidentiality.

- We don’t do “brown envelopes” anymore. During the Past Cases review so many safes and filing cabinets had sealed brown envelopes in them across the Connexion which had not been opened since they were kept. When opened, there was often information that needed further assessment and/or action or contributed to a present issue.

- The storage of information for safeguarding is a continuous debate, but it will be for church councils and CLT's to make decisions about how it can be all stored confidentiality but not in a way that it is hidden – or sealed – away. Most churches and circuits across the Connexion seem to use church safes/circuit office space.

- In terms of retention, the golden rule is don't destroy anything even your day-to-day notes without checking with me or advice. Always best to keep the information than destroy it too early.

Finally, IF ITS NOT RECORDED, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

6. Research for those in contact with children and young people.

I just want to share two key areas that we have started to talk about within the District.

(i) Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events occurring before age 18 that can have lasting effects on physical, mental, and social health.

What Are ACEs?
ACEs include a wide range of negative experiences during childhood, such as **emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; emotional or physical neglect; and household dysfunction** like parental substance use, mental illness, domestic violence, incarceration, **violence, natural disasters, and**

unstable housing. ACEs are common: surveys indicate that **three in four high school students report at least one ACE**, and **one in five report four or more**

Effects on Health and Development
ACEs can trigger **toxic stress**, a prolonged activation of the stress-response system, which affects **brain development, immune function, and hormonal regulation.** Key brain regions impacted include the **hippocampus, amygdala, and prefrontal cortex**, influencing memory, emotional regulation, and decision-making.
Short-term effects may include:

- Fear, anxiety, or mood swings
- Sleep disturbances or nightmares
- Difficulty forming attachments or showing affection
- Challenges in learning and school performance
  Long-term effects can persist into adulthood, increasing the risk of:
- Mental health disorders: depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use disorders
- Physical health conditions: heart disease, diabetes, cancer, obesity, and chronic pain
- Behavioral and social challenges: risky sexual behaviour, criminal activity, unstable relationships, and lower educational or employment outcomes
- Reduced life expectancy by up to 20 years in severe cases
  ACEs can also **affect adult relationships**, leading to difficulties in communication, trust, and emotional intimacy

or parental separation/divorce. They also encompass broader social and environmental stressors, including **poverty, discrimination, community**

(ii) ***Contextual safeguarding*** is a framework developed to address the reality that many adolescents experience significant harm in social settings beyond parental influence. Traditional safeguarding focuses mainly on the home; contextual safeguarding expands this to include external environments.

Key Principles

- **Extra-familial risk recognition:** Harm can occur in peer groups, schools, neighbourhoods, and online spaces
- **Holistic assessment:** Professionals consider the child's full social world, not just family dynamics.
- **Intervention in contexts:** Instead of only supporting families, practitioners work to change unsafe environments (e.g., peer groups, community spaces).
- **Collaboration:** Requires joint work between schools, social care, police, community organisations, and digital platforms.

Examples of Extra-Familial Harm

- Criminal exploitation (including county lines)
- Sexual exploitation or harassment
- Gang-related violence
- Online grooming or cyberbullying
- Harmful peer relationships

Why It Matters
Research shows adolescents often face their greatest risks outside the home, where parents have limited influence. Contextual safeguarding ensures these environments are assessed and made safer, strengthening overall child protection systems.
Contextual safeguarding ultimately broadens safeguarding practice to address the full range of environments shaping young people's safety.

7. National safeguarding research

‘**Independent review into mental health conditions, ADHD and autism**

Source: **Department for Health and Social Care**

Date: **09 October 2026**

The Department of Health and Social Care has published the final report of the Independent review into the prevalence and support for mental health conditions, ADHD and autism in England.
Commonly known as the Fonagy review, the report highlights that mental distress and common mental health conditions have increased substantially, particularly among children and young people.
Community Care has published a news story summarising some of the key findings from the Fonagy review focusing on the mental health needs of children known to social care.
Read the Community Care news story: Children known to social care face huge mental health service and evidence gaps, despite high need, finds Fonagy review
Read the review: Independent review into mental health conditions, ADHD and autism: final report

Persistent themes in safeguarding reviews

Source: **Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel**

Date: **13 October 2026**

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published a range of new resources examining the ten most persistent themes in serious child safeguarding incidents in England. The themes reflect recurring challenges that feature across safeguarding practice and the wider safeguarding system, including: understanding the child's lived experience; understanding the whole family; naming and understanding the harm; and understanding and responding to risk. Each theme on the Panel's website combines learning from safeguarding reviews with practice insights, actions and reflective questions to support discussion and decision-making.

Access the resources: Persistent themes in safeguarding reviews

Source: **Museum of Homelessness**

Date: **14 October 2026**

The Museum of Homelessness has published a report examining the deaths of people experiencing homelessness in the UK. The report includes data from public reporting and freedom of information requests to local authorities.

Findings show: 1720 people, including 51 children living in temporary accommodation, died while homeless in 2025, the highest number of child deaths recorded; and 63% of the children who died were under one-year-old. Recommendations include that local authority housing departments should be required to record all deaths of children living in temporary accommodation and publish learning on how future deaths can be prevented.

Read the report: Full findings published for dying homeless project

Online sexual abuse webinars - Marie Collins Foundation

The Marie Collins Foundation's ACCESS webinar programme helps people understand technology-assisted child sexual abuse (TACSA). It is told through the voices of victims and survivors. There are nine free webinars, organised into three series.

The first series, The New Reality of Online Harm, is for professionals and is available to watch now. It covers what TACSA is, how AI is being used to sexually abuse children, and Com groups. These groups are one of the fastest-growing online threats to children. Many DSLs will not have heard of them yet.

Recordings of the other two series, for parents and carers and for survivors, are due to follow.

Marie Collins Foundation ACCESS webinar series

8. Forward notice about Christmas and Safeguarding Arrangements 2026

Methodist connexional employees - like me - have to take the period of Christmas Eve to 4th January as leave. There will be cover for safeguarding matters nationally and I will be speaking with Rev Angy and Rev Neil about cover locally - this will all be confirmed in the next newsletter in December.

Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love – Romans 8: 31-39

31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against
us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us
everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself
has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died
for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading
for us.

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have
trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?
36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like
sheep."[a]) 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither
angels nor demons,[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers
of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed,
nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

New Living Translation.