



SAFEGUARDING BOARD ISLE OF MAN

Welcome to our sixth edition of the Safeguarding Board's Newsletter. In this edition we look at the role of Andrew Hodkin (Learning and Development Officer), revisit our training and recap some new initiatives this year.

Newsletter

Andy Hodkin— Learning and Development Officer

We're pleased to introduce Andy Hodkin, who joined the Safeguarding Board as our new **Learning & Development Officer** at the beginning of May. We asked Andy to tell us a bit about himself and what he's looking forward to in this new role.

To help everyone get to know him better, we asked Andy to share a bit about his background, his journey so far, and what he's most looking forward to in this exciting new role.

Andy shares with us his career path, his key achievements and an overview of his expertise. Flick to page 4 to find out more!

Trauma Informed Approach—

The Safeguarding Board recently organised training with Helen Grey an Independent Social Worker, Trainer & Consultant. This two day training course focused on building a strong understanding of how to safeguard young people from risks outside the home. The session began by exploring key terms such as contextual safeguarding, complex safeguarding, and extra-familial abuse.

Over 70 participants looked at how attachment and trauma theories can help explain the experiences of young people facing these risks. The training also introduced trauma-informed approaches and how to apply them when working with families and partner agencies.

Read more on page 5.

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Special points of interest

- Are you confident on when you can share information?
- Do you fancy becoming a pool trainer for the Board?
- The Safeguarding Board is on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn —do you follow us?

New Independent Members

The Safeguarding Board is established under the Isle of Man Safeguarding Act 2018 and is a statutory body, appointed by the Chief Executive, Isle of Man Government. The Board is a partnership of key agencies and independent members, supported by a business team and led by an Independent Chair.

The Safeguarding Board are pleased to introduce 3 new independent members:

Tom Bateman



Tom brings to the Safeguarding Board experience in public service in the field of Legislation and Policy, which included involvement in key social policy legislation such as the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Act 2021, and the Domestic Abuse Act 2020. Prior to retirement in 2024, Tom worked as Senior Policy Adviser in the Treasury. Tom is a long-standing volunteer with Graih Ministries (formerly Graih). Tom is looking forward to working as a lay member of the Board with partner agencies, the third sector and all those concerned with the welfare and safeguarding of children and the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable adults.

Dave McClean



David qualified as a Mental Health Nurse in 1990 and worked in a variety of settings including adolescent mental health and addiction treatment services. He came to the Isle of Man in 2001 to work in the Drug and Alcohol Team, becoming the Young Person's Specialist some years later. He also worked in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service as a non medical prescriber for its neuro-developmental clinic and facilitated in the family therapy clinic there. In 2016 he became the Safeguarding Lead for the Mental Health Service on the island supporting the implementation of the then separate Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adult Partnership plans and acting as a resource for governance and quality issues and provider of advice, support, supervision and training on safeguarding issues. David retired from the MHS in 2021. His interests include travel, cooking and latterly an unsuccessful attempt at gardening. He is delighted to be a lay member on the Safeguarding Board and is looking forward to working with the Board to ensure that safeguarding remains a priority on the island.

Ann Shimmin



Ann has over 25 years of experience across the childcare, education, and adult care sectors, she owns and operates an independent training centre that supports learners in early years, education, and social care settings to achieve competency-based qualifications. Throughout her career, she has remained committed to promoting safe, inclusive, and high-quality practice for individuals of all ages. She advocates for professional curiosity, encouraging the exploration of concerns, asking critical questions, and ensuring the voices of vulnerable individuals are heard and acted upon. As a Lay Person on the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board, she brings an independent, community-based perspective to safeguarding discussions. Her cross-sector experience within the local context helps the Board better understand the real-life challenges faced by those at risk. She is dedicated to supporting the Board in maintaining a clear focus on the real-world impact of safeguarding practices and looks forward to working collaboratively to help achieve the best possible outcomes for children, young people, vulnerable adults, and their families.

News from the Training Centre



The training schedule for April 2025 - March 2026 was finalised and published on the Safeguarding Board's website. The core and specialist training offer is, as ever, in line with the Board's priorities. All of our training is advertised on our socials channels emailed internally. Please make sure you follow us and contact Andrew Hodkin to make sure you are on our mailing list.



Over the past month, we've successfully delivered two training courses to over 40 delegates, focusing on Children's safeguarding awareness. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants highlighting the importance of sharing information, understanding safeguarding principles, and feeling confident to report incidents. The sessions also emphasised the value of keeping records, being vigilant, and working collaboratively across agencies. Delegates found it especially impactful to hear real-life experiences from trainers, nurses, and frontline staff, which brought the learning to life and deepened their understanding.

In addition, two Adult Safeguarding training courses have also been held, focusing on key safeguarding principles, including recognising abuse, understanding thresholds for intervention and applying the "Making Safeguarding Personal" approach. Delegates explored real-world scenarios such as self-neglect, domestic abuse, and mental capacity concerns. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants gaining confidence in raising safeguarding concerns, keeping accurate records and the importance of working collaboratively across agencies. The training also highlighted the importance of multi-agency working and the role of professional judgement in safeguarding decisions. Special thanks to our trainers and contributors for delivering such impactful sessions, and to all attendees for their engagement and commitment to protecting vulnerable adults.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Board is reliant on our multi-agency pool trainers to support delivery of our core training offer, however there is a need for pool trainers from adult service providers. If you are driven by a passion for helping others and a desire to share your knowledge and would like to join the team of 'pool' trainers then please contact the business team for an application form.

We are pleased to announce a number of multi-agency workshops designed to strengthen professional practice in safeguarding our most vulnerable children. As always booking for all training is via application form available from the website or by emailing safeguardingboard.co@gov.im

Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse



3 July

The training aims to raise awareness of intrafamilial child sexual abuse across the multi-agency partners and contribute to the development of a competent and confident workforce when identifying and responding to child sexual abuse.

Managing Allegations Strategy Meetings



8 July

To understand what MASM is and the role of the Designated officer

Threshold Training



25 July

To share the principles of the continuum of need guidance and using the new threshold matrix to support practitioners' understanding and confidence in using the guidance to inform the right level of support for children and families

Safeguarding Babies



14 August

To encourage professionals to consider the voice of the Baby in their practice

A Day in the Life of

Andrew Hodkin

Learning and Development Officer

Hi everyone!

My name is Andy, and I'm really excited to be starting my new role with the Safeguarding Board. I'm looking forward to working with you all to support the learning and development of safeguarding theory and **practice** across the Isle of Man.

I've been living on the Island for the past four years, so some of you may already know me from previous roles. I was Team Manager for Children with Disabilities at Manx Care, ran my own business—*Disability Awareness*—offering training, consultancy, and advocacy services, and I've also worked with Manx Mencap. Alongside this, I've worked directly with children in specialist provision and respite centres, and I volunteer with the Isle of Man Special Olympics.



Before moving to the Isle of Man, my career was based mainly in Nottingham, where I held several social work positions and managed services in Mental Health, Disability, and Short Breaks.

Safeguarding has been a constant theme throughout my career, and I'm eager to build on that foundation in this role—working closely with the Board and with all of you involved in safeguarding (which is, of course, everyone!).

What a working day looks like

During my first month in the role, I have been out and about introducing myself to various teams and safeguarding representatives from education, health, police, social work and the third sector. I have also attended several of the courses that we provide, which has been a great opportunity to meet lots of you and hear about the work that you do. I'm looking forward to enhancing my knowledge and understanding of the various departments and organisations in which you all work.

In the coming weeks and months, I'll be involved in developing the training offer and exploring ways to embed learning into everyday practice. I'm a strong advocate for amplifying the voices of those we serve, and I'll be making sure their input remains a key part of how we shape learning and development.

Our shared vision at the Safeguarding Board is to keep improving, partnering, and collaborating to achieve the best outcomes. I'm excited that my role will be part of driving that mission forward across the Island.

Up coming events

Suicide Prevention Day 10 September	
ICON Week September 2025	
Domestic Abuse Awareness Month October	

Trauma Informed Practice....

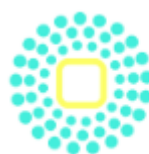
The training encouraged reflection on how language influences views on safeguarding, and helped attendees improve their ability to spot signs of harm and use professional curiosity in their work. The two day workshop session also provided tools to better understand young people's lived experiences and to assess and reduce risk through safety planning.

Day 1

On **Day 1** of the training, participants explored what is meant by risk outside the home, focusing on definitions of extra-familial abuse. The session introduced current theories such as The Cycle of Need – the dance of attachment and research that are shaping child protection practice today. It also covered how attachment, trauma, and the challenges of adolescence influence young people's experiences. Attendees learned to recognise signs and indicators of extra-familial abuse and were introduced to the core principles of trauma-informed practice.

Day 2

On **Day 2**, the focus shifted to applying this knowledge in practice. Participants learned how to use professional curiosity to help protect young people, assess and reduce risk, and use tools like safety mapping and planning. The day included practical exercises using scenarios and case examples, and concluded by linking the learning to local procedures and the roles of partner agencies in responding to risk outside the home.



Helen Grey
LIGHTS ON LEARNING

“

I enjoyed the discussions around contextual safeguarding locations / hotspots and useful info around engaging parents

“

I thought the training was very clear and well thought out development linking knowledge to practice

“

A good course—lots of info delivered in a perfect way! Loads of use of video/activity, role play-kept it interesting. Thankyou

”

What to do if you have a safeguarding concern



What to do if you are aware of something that worries you.

If there is an imminent risk to life then call **999**.

If you are a child or young person and are concerned that yourself or a friend may be being abused, there is advice available on our [website](#). There is always someone to talk to and you can contact either of the numbers below and speak to a trained professional about your concerns.

If you work for or volunteer with an organisation and you are concerned about the safeguarding or protection of a child, you must inform your line manager or the safeguarding officer/lead in your organisation - and you should record that you have shared this with them.

If you are a member of the public then it is your duty to report it directly to Children and Families Division or the Police.

'Doing nothing is not an option.'

(01624) 631212 (Isle of Man Police Headquarters) out of office hours and ask to speak to the on-call social worker.

In an emergency always call the police on 999.

If you work for or volunteer with an organisation and you are concerned about the safeguarding of a vulnerable adult it is your responsibility to inform your line manager or the safeguarding officer in your organisation - 'doing nothing is not an option' and you should record that you have shared this with them.

If you are a member of the public then it is your duty to report it directly to the Adult Safeguarding Team (Manx Care) or the Police.

This email address is monitored by the Adult Safeguarding Team in Manx Care during office hours.

If you need to contact the Safeguarding Board, the easiest way is to email:

Safeguardingboard.co@gov.im

This is not monitored outside of office hours and is not to be used to report specific safeguarding concerns.



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