SAFEGUARDING BOARD
ISLE OF MAN

Safeguarding Week 2026

Available Sessions

Monday 16th November 09:30 – 11:00. In person or Teams

Paula McGowan discusses Oliver McGowan- His Legacy

Following the tragic death of her son, Oliver, in 2016, Paula McGowan OBE has campaigned tirelessly to improve the training, education and understanding of learning disabilities and autism across health and care services.

Her efforts led to the development of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training, which has now been rolled out across the UK. Tier 1 training is now mandatory for all staff on the Isle of Man.

To mark the start of Safeguarding Week 2026, we are pleased to promote this session organised by the Adult Safeguarding Health Team, and welcome Paula McGowan OBE for a one-hour presentation. Paula will share Oliver's story and reflect on the lessons that all health and care professionals can learn from the circumstances surrounding his death.

People with learning disabilities and autistic people continue to experience significant health inequalities and are more likely to die from avoidable causes than the general population. By improving our understanding, challenging poor practice and ensuring that we are equipped to provide truly person-centred care, we can begin to address these inequalities and create health services that are accessible, inclusive and effective for everyone. This session offers a unique opportunity to hear directly from Paula about the legacy of Oliver's life and the importance of listening to, understanding and valuing people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

Join us in person at the Keyll Daree Lecture Theatre, where there will be an opportunity to ask Paula questions following the presentation, or attend online via Microsoft Teams. Online attendees will be able to listen to the presentation but will not be able to participate in the question-and-answer session.

Places can be booked via eLearn Vannin or by e-mailing pete.corkhill@gov.im

Monday 16th November 15:30 – 16:30. Online Teams

Learning from Thematic Review

Learning from the review: What does this mean for our practice?

Couldn't make the Safeguarding Conference? Or would you like another opportunity to explore some of the important learning?

Join Nicki Pettitt for this bite-sized online session exploring learning from the Thematic Review, and what it means for practitioners across agencies. The session adapts Nicki's conference presentation into a focused 45-minute session, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

To book a place email- andrew.hodkin@gov.im

Tuesday 17th November 09:30 – 10:30. Online Teams

Trauma Informed Practice

Trauma can have a profound impact on the way people think, feel, communicate and respond to those trying to support them.

In this bite-sized online session, Nicki Pettitt will introduce why understanding trauma matters and explore how our practice may need to adapt to become more trauma-informed and trauma-skilled. The session will draw on examples from Safeguarding Board activity and provide an accessible introduction for practitioners from across agencies.

A useful opportunity to step back from the demands of day-to-day practice and think about what might sit behind the behaviour or responses we see.

To book a place email- andrew.hodkin@gov.im

Tuesday 17th November 13:30 – 14:30. Drop In Session

Online Safety

Following his presentation on Vulnerable Adults and Online Safety at the Safeguarding Board's recent Adults' Conference, Mike Haywood's colleagues from the Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance (OCSIA) will be holding an informal drop-in session for professionals and practitioners.

The session will provide an opportunity to ask questions, discuss online safety concerns arising through your work, and develop your understanding of the rapidly changing world of digital risk.

Whether you work with adults, children, young people or families, come along to find out more about issues such as cybercrime, fraud and online exploitation, and pick up practical information and straightforward steps that can help you support people to stay safer online.

To book a place email- andrew.hodkin@gov.im

Thursday 19th November 10:00 – 11:00. Drop In Session

Sight Loss and Safeguarding: Understanding Additional Vulnerabilities

People living with sight loss can face additional challenges that may increase their vulnerability to abuse, neglect, exploitation or harm.

Join Sight Matters for this informal one-hour session exploring some of the safeguarding issues that people with sight difficulties may experience, and how professionals can better recognise and respond to them.

The session will encourage practitioners to consider how communication, accessibility, independence, social isolation and reliance on others can affect a person's experience of safeguarding, and what we can do to ensure our practice remains accessible, inclusive and person-centred.

To book a place email- Andrew.hodkin@gov.im

Friday 20th November 10:00 – 11.30. Practitioner Forum

Learning from Peter

Join us for an interactive multi-agency practitioner forum exploring the learning from Child P.

Rather than simply presenting the findings of the review, the session will provide an opportunity for practitioners from different agencies to reflect together on Peter's lived experience and consider what the learning means for everyday safeguarding practice.

Through a short presentation and facilitated discussion, we will explore themes including professional curiosity, understanding the child's lived experience, exploitation, family and home dynamics, domestic abuse, and effective multi-agency working.

The forum is intended to be a reflective and practical space where practitioners can share perspectives, consider the challenges they encounter in practice, and identify learning that they can take back into their own organisations.

To book a place email- Andrew.hodkin@gov.im

Friday 20th November 13:30 -15:00 Presentation

Social Isolation and Loneliness

Karen Winter from Live at Home will lead a presentation exploring loneliness and social isolation, including how these experiences can affect people's wellbeing, resilience and safety. The session will consider the signs that someone may be becoming isolated, the factors that can increase vulnerability, and how professionals and communities can respond.

The presentation will be followed by an opportunity for discussion, reflection and shared learning.

To book a place email- Andrew.hodkin@gov.im