



# SAFEGUARDING BOARD ISLE OF MAN

## Newsletter

### Self-Neglect Conference



On 19 September 2023 139 delegates attended the Self-Neglect Strategy Launch and conference held at Woodbourne House in Douglas. Delegates in attendance spanned a wide range of professionals, including social workers, police officers, representatives from the Third Sector, housing authorities and other interested professionals.

The Key Note speaker was Sylvia Manson from SylMan Consulting who authored the Thematic Review into the deaths of seven individuals who suffered from self-neglect. The report can be found on [www.safeguardingboard.im/learning-from-reviews/manx-learning](https://www.safeguardingboard.im/learning-from-reviews/manx-learning) along side the Board response.

Following the publication of this review in October 2022 it was recommended that a self-neglect strategy be drafted. Significant work has been undertaken, and a strategy was published in April 2023. The strategy and a procedural guidance has been produced and was launched at the conference. <https://www.safeguardingboard.im/safeguarding-adults/information-for-professionals/self-neglect/>.

Following Sylvia Manson, other speakers included professionals from Adult Social Work, Manx Care



Health, Housing, the Isle of Man Constabulary, the Wellbeing Partnership, Isle of Man Fire and Rescue Service and Mental Health. Presentation topics were: Capacity and Consent; Self-Neglect and the Mental Health Act; Self-Neglect—partners working together; the role in supporting health practitioners with self-neglect; self-neglect working with partners to identify and protect our island’s most vulnerable; wellbeing partnerships—contribution to making it work; the role of Isle of Man Fire and Res-

cue Service the day concluded with a personal account by Andrea’s family. This left delegates with the strong message from the family that “self-neglect kills.”

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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 Board is on Facebook, have you liked our page?

# Private Fostering—the facts



### What is it?

Private Fostering is when someone other than a parent or a close immediate relative cares for a child under the age of 16 for more than 28 days.

That is anyone who isn't a parent/legal guardian (with parental responsibility), Grandparent, sibling, Aunt/Uncle or Step-parent (by marriage).

Private fostered children are not Looked After Children

### Why is it important?

Private Fostering came into law following the death of Victoria Climbié who was privately fostered by her Great Aunt and suffered significant abuse and neglect in her care.

It is law on the Isle of Man that Children and Families have a duty to ensure the welfare of children in private fostering arrangements (Children and Young Person's Act, 2001).

### Who has responsibility to inform Children and Families?

The parents and carers should inform Children and Families; however all agencies have a duty to inform Children and Families within 24 hours of becoming aware of an intended or actual private fostering arrangement.

When meeting with children and young people, all agencies should ask questions about who lives in the household and who has parental responsibility – this helps to identify private fostering arrangements.

### How do I make a notification of a Private Fostering arrangement?

If you are aware of a child who is living, or the intention is for them to live, with an adult who is not a close relative for a period of 28 days or longer, contact Children and Families - (01624) 686179.





## Safeguarding and the Faith Sector

The Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult. As such, the Church has robust policies, procedures and guidelines in place, to ensure good practice throughout its safeguarding practice. The priorities of the Church in this regard are to:

- Promote a safe environment and culture
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Effectively manage allegations of abuse
- Respond to and manage those that may present risk to others

Safeguarding within the larger Christian denominations on the Island is overseen by a professionally qualified safeguarding adviser who is the first point of contact for any concerns or queries. The ability of Churches to work together enables them to more effectively reach out to the most vulnerable and where collaborating to care for others is built into the life, ministry and mission of all Church activities.

Safeguarding in the Church reflects a commitment to creating a nurturing and safe environment for all individuals involved in the faith community, promoting their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

## Safeguarding Board Independent Member's Reflections

Following my retirement from Hospice Isle of Man, I wished to contribute to some new and challenging venture. Statutory Safeguarding Board, created in 2017 was looking for lay members. My interest was peaked when I learnt that the new Safeguarding Board included both children and vulnerable adults. This was an innovative, sensible move allowing for better integration and improved multiagency working on our small Island.

My long career was steeped in health and social care. I had a working knowledge of safeguarding, but was acutely aware that in this changing world, the safety and well being of children and vulnerable adults was paramount as we were facing so many new challenges, starting with, for example, the use of internet and social media.

To begin with, I found the slow progress of getting the Board up and running frustrating.

I was impressed with the commitment from senior leaders from each government department but the logistics of getting a working team together seemed laborious and unnecessarily prolonged. It didn't help that we suddenly had to face the pandemic and with it numerous lockdowns which, to a great extent, despite efforts, seemed to paralyse the work of the Board.

Finally, a new chair was appointed - Lesley Walker. Thanks to Lesley's tenacity and determination to make things happen, the Safeguarding Board has progressed in leaps and bounds.

We now have an informative website with links to all new policies and procedures and training. Information sharing agreement and guidelines are available. Serious Case Management Reviews (SCMR) have been published. Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy was launched and conference on this subject held in September 2022. Self – Neglect Campaign began and is still ongoing.

Communication Strategy is in place, Facebook page set up and newsletter created.

Director of Safeguarding Christine Impey has been appointed as well as Training Officer Sharon Willett is now in post.

There is a feeling of real progress that's been made.

Safeguarding Board's mission is to ensure that "Safeguarding is Everyone's Business".

I think that the way the Board is now working, sets the scene for faster, more responsive development. As I am preparing to leave the Board at the end of the year after 5 years of being an independent member, I can truly say that I enjoyed my time on the Board and feel that I have always been listened to, included and was able to contribute to the Board's development.

I would like to thank Lesley Walker and the team as well as all the Members of the Board for their guidance, support and for making me feel valued.

Margaret Simpson (Independent Member)

## Information Sharing

Information Sharing continues to cause concern for some professionals. At the self-neglect conference on 19 September both the Chief Constable and the Chief Officer of Manx Care endorsed information sharing by practitioners in a safeguarding arena.

A workshop has also taken place with colleagues from the Office of Cyber Security where the flow of information has been mapped. There are also planned workshops in 2024 to try and address information sharing myths.

The Myth-busting guide is available on our website and can be found <https://www.safeguardingboard.im/safeguarding-children/information-for-professionals/information-sharing/> as well as the information sharing guidance and the signed information sharing guidance protocol.

If you're still unsure as to when you can share information there is a video on the website and can be found here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mp1RePv1m6w>



*Information sharing is critical to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse and harm!*

## In other news

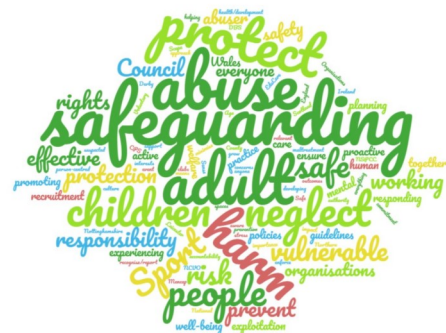
- It has taken a significant amount of time, but we are delighted to announce that all of our multi-agency policies and procedures are now up to date and can be found on our website.
- The professionals only zone of the Safeguarding Board Website has been updated. This will be the place where you can find information which is not relevant to members of the general publication. If you require a log-on to the professionals only zone please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im) in the first instance.
- The most recent Annual Report is in its latter stages of being approved and will be made available on the website when in its published.
- The next newsletter is going to start the first in a series "A Day in the Life". If you would like to be included in this series please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im)
- If you have any newsletter items you would like to include, then again please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im)
- The latest SCMR into Child N made a recommendation about the Myth of Invisible Men— Safeguarding Children under 1 from non-accidental injury caused by male carers. As part of the recommendations, it recommended that The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Report be circulated. This report can be found [here](#).

### Safeguarding Week

In a burst of optimism the team is currently organising a joint safeguarding week. A number of events will be taking place across the island.

There are a combination of in person workshops, drop in sessions, social media sessions, webinars as well as training.

If you wish to find out further information please contact [safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:safeguardingboard.co@gov.im)



## 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.'

Contact details for concerns about children are as follows:

(01624) 686179 (Initial Response Team, Manx Care) during office hours

(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.

Alternatively you can email: [dutyinitialresponseteam.dhsc@gov.im](mailto:dutyinitialresponseteam.dhsc@gov.im) This email address is monitored by Children and Families Division (Social Care) during office hours only.



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

[Safeguardingboard.co@gov.im](mailto:Safeguardingboard.co@gov.im)

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

lows:

(01624) 685969 during office hours

(01624) 650000 (Nobles Switchboard) out of office hours and ask to speak to the on-call social worker

Alternatively you can email to: [ASTeam@gov.im](mailto:ASTeam@gov.im)

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

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.

Contact details for concerns about an adult are as follows:



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