



NEWSLETTER

Oct 1 2025
Edition 7



SAFEGUARDING BOARD
ISLE OF MAN

SAFEGUARDING BOARD *Conference* 2025



Thursday 16 October 2025

8:45am (Registration) 9:20 start - 4:30pm
Comis Hotel, Santon

On the 16th October the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board will be holding it's annual safeguarding conference. Aimed at practitioners involved in safeguarding, this year's programme features keynote presentations, expert-led sessions, and interactive workshops designed to strengthen safeguarding practice and challenge safeguarding thinking.

Topics including neglect, trauma-informed practice, effective communication, and professional curiosity will be delivered by distinguished keynote speakers Emeritus Professor Jan Horwath and Bridget Griffin, as well as seven sector experts from Health, Social Work, OCSIA, the Isle of Man Constabulary, and the Third Sector.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL GAP – ONLINE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This session explores the growing disconnect between the digital lives of children and young people and the understanding held by the adults who care for them.

Mike and Sam will highlight the risks this gap presents and emphasise the vital role practitioners, parents, and carers play in promoting safe and informed online engagement.



THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS

A reflective session exploring the emotional toll safeguarding work can have on professionals, and how organisations can better support staff wellbeing.



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: THE FOUNDATION TO ACHIEVING POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Highlighting how clear, compassionate communication can transform outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.



ICON – BABIES CRY, YOU CAN COPE

A spotlight on the ICON programme, which supports parents and carers in managing infant crying and preventing abusive head trauma.



NEURODIVERGENCE & SAFEGUARDING



Exploring how safeguarding approaches can be adapted to better support neurodivergent children and adults, ensuring inclusive and responsive practice.

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE

Encouraging practitioners to ask the right questions, challenge assumptions, and understand how substance use affects families and safeguarding decisions.



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PROFESSIONAL CURIOSITY

Professional curiosity is the practice of looking beyond the obvious, asking thoughtful questions, and exploring concerns more deeply to safeguard individuals effectively



A Conference for Change

This conference is more than a learning event—it's a call to action. It's a space to share knowledge, challenge thinking, and build stronger networks across the Isle of Man. Email safeguardingboard.co@gov.im for an application form

Safeguarding is everyone's business



Training Update



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.

**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.

As always booking for all training is via application form available from the website or by emailing safeguardingboard.co@gov.im



Since the last update, several key training sessions have taken place to strengthen safeguarding practice across multi-agency partners. Courses have been on the topics of Domestic Abuse, MASM, Professional Curiosity and Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups have all been well attended.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive



A recent multi-agency training session addressed intrafamilial child sexual abuse (CSA), following findings that it is often overlooked and under-reported. The session aimed to raise awareness, improve recognition, and strengthen responses through research insights and practical tools.

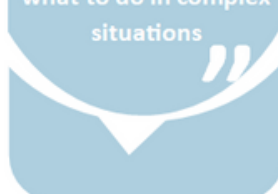
Delegates explored CSA prevalence, signs, and risk factors, as well as barriers to identification—especially in cases without disclosure. The training also covered how to support children and safe carers effectively.

Using case scenarios and data, the session helped build professional confidence and reinforced the importance of a proactive, collaborative safeguarding approach

“The training really opened my eyes to how often CSA can be missed and the importance of being vigilant”



“The real-life scenarios and practical tools were especially helpful for understanding what to do in complex situations”



“It was valuable to learn about the barriers to disclosure and how we can better support children and families. Thankyou”



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Multi-Agency Workshops



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We are pleased to announce a number of multi-agency workshops designed to strengthen professional practice in safeguarding our most vulnerable children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Training	15 Oct	The training covers key safeguarding and legal frameworks and explains the importance and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead
Professional Curiosity Workshops	13 Nov	The training will cover what professional curiosity is and why it is important and how practitioners can be professionally curious.
Risk Outside the Home	19 & 20 Nov	1/2 day reflection session on the impact of the learning
Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse Training	15 or 16 Dec	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.
Threshold Guidance workshops	20 Nov	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
MASM	28 Nov	To understand what MASM is and the role of the Designated officer

Learning Disability Week

Learning & Development Officer Andy Hodkin wrote about the power of meaningful engagement-led by the individual

[Click here to read the full article](#)

Empowering Voices: Reflections from Learning Disability Week

During Learning Disability Week, a powerful event at Keyll Daree highlighted the voices and experiences of adults with learning disabilities. Each speaker chose their own topic, style, and message—ranging from sports and family to food, communication, and creative expression. One presentation concluded with an inspiring signed performance, underscoring the importance of inclusive communication.



A parent also gave a moving account of raising a child with learning disabilities and autism. The event was compered by another adult with learning disabilities. While supported by practitioners, the speakers retained full ownership of their voices and messages—embodying the principle: “Nothing about us without us.” The key message: it’s not just about hearing voices, but ensuring they are central to decision-making in safeguarding and beyond

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Safeguarding Concerns



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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 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.



Dates for your diary

World Mental Health Day 10 th October 	Isle of Man Safeguarding Conference 16th October 
Anti-Slavery Day 18 th October 	International Day against Facism and Anti-Semitism 9th November 
Isle of Man Safeguarding Week "Engagement" 17th – 23 rd November 	International Men's Day 19 th December 
International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3rd December 	Human Rights Day 10 th December 

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