

NEWSLETTER

OUR QUARTERLY UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING ON THE ISLE OF MAN

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UP AND COMING KEY DATES

- **10 October:** World Mental Health Day
- **18 October:** Anti-Slavery Day
- **20 October:** Children's Isle of Man Safeguarding Conference
- **20 October:** Adults' Isle of Man Safeguarding Conference
- **16 - 20 November:** Safeguarding Week 2026
- **16 - 20 November:** Anti-Bullying Week
- **3 December:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **10 December:** Human Rights Day

Isle of Man Safeguarding Conferences 2026

On 20 October 2026 the Isle of Man Safeguarding board will be holding two annual conferences covering Safeguarding topics for Children and Adults. The two conferences will take place at the Comis, Mount Murray across one day. Those who secured a space will listen to insightful presentations covering a range of topics. Our speakers are as follows:

Children's Conference

Nicki Pettitt, Independent Lead Reviewer and Safeguarding Consultant

Children in Crisis: Exploitation, Mental Health & Substance Misuse

- Key messages & learning from child thematic SCMR.
- Learning from a 'Think Family' perspective.
- Seeing children in crisis through a trauma informed lens.

Tracy Morris, Independent Social Work Consultant
Risk Outside the Home: Multi-Agency Practice

- Hidden in plain sight: What is child exploitation?
- Introduction of the new Risk Outside The Home protocol (ROTH).
- Using a contextual safeguarding approach: faces, spaces, and places.



Adults' Conference

Pete Corkhill,

Elder Abuse & Safeguarding

- Explore the realities of elder abuse and the challenges facing older adults at risk of harm.
- Examine how a person-centred approach can improve safeguarding outcomes and promote independence.
- Discover how the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal can be embedded into everyday practice.

Mike Haywood,

Vulnerable Adults & Online Safety

- Explore the online risks increasingly faced by vulnerable adults in today's digital world.
- Examine emerging threats, including cybercrime, fraud and online exploitation.
- Discover practical approaches to reducing harm through partnership working and digital awareness.

Dean Beadle,

Neurodivergence & Adult Safeguarding

- Explore the relationship between neurodivergence and adult safeguarding practice.
- Examine how professionals can better understand and support neurodivergent individuals.
- Discover practical ways to create more inclusive, accessible and person-centred safeguarding responses.

ICON WEEK 2026:

RAISING AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The Isle of Man Safeguarding Board was proud to support ICON Week 2026, a national awareness campaign dedicated to helping parents and carers understand infant crying and promoting safer responses to the challenges that can come with caring for a young baby.

Held during the final week of September, ICON Week brought together healthcare professionals, charities, organisations and communities from across the UK to raise awareness of the important message: Babies cry. You can cope. Never, ever shake a baby.

Throughout the week, the campaign highlighted the ICON programme, an evidence-based initiative designed to help parents and carers cope with a crying baby and reduce the risk of abusive head trauma. The ICON message reminds families that:

- Infant crying is normal
- Comforting methods can help
- It's OK to walk away for a few minutes if the baby is safe and you are feeling overwhelmed
- Never, ever shake a baby

A series of free webinars took place throughout the week, exploring different aspects of the ICON programme and sharing learning from professionals, families and partner organisations. Sessions covered topics including the lifelong impact of abusive head trauma, the rollout of ICON in Wales, supporting fathers through the ICONIC DADS programme, and strategies for remaining calm and coping with a crying baby.

Thank you to everyone who participated in ICON Week 2026 and helped share these important messages across their organisations, professional networks and communities. By working together, we can help ensure more parents and carers receive the support and reassurance they need during what can be a challenging time.

Babies cry. You can cope. Never, ever shake a baby.



RAPID REVIEW

The Safeguarding Board has published a new learning briefing arising from a Rapid Review. A new rapid review methodology was piloted in relation to children and young people who are believed to have suffered serious abuse or harm, in order to ensure a more in-depth and timely review of agencies involvements or actions. The Rapid Review process is a pilot for children's cases and the purpose is to gain information across partner agencies, identified single and multi agency improvement and capture learning in real time.

The briefing highlights a number of key learning themes that will be familiar to practitioners, including information sharing, neglect, child exploitation, consent, professional curiosity, capturing the child's voice, and understanding the impact of parental adversity on children. It also identifies areas for further improvement, such as follow-up of referrals, effective use of strategy meetings, considering risks to all children within a family, and the importance of the "Was Not Brought" approach when children do not attend appointments.

The briefing concludes with a series of reflective questions for supervision, team meetings and group discussions, encouraging practitioners to consider how the learning applies to their own practice. Colleagues across all agencies are encouraged to read the briefing and use the learning to strengthen safeguarding practice and improve outcomes for children and families across the Isle of Man.



Learning Briefing Child A – Rapid Review

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SAFEGUARDING WEEK

The Isle of Man Safeguarding Board is pleased to announce Safeguarding Week 2026, taking place from **16-20 November**. The week will bring together professionals, volunteers, community organisations and members of the public to explore a wide range of safeguarding topics affecting both children and adults. A programme of free events will provide opportunities to learn from experienced speakers, hear about current safeguarding issues and share good practice with colleagues from across the Island.

Whether you work directly with children and families, support vulnerable adults, or have an interest in keeping people safe, there will be something for everyone.



SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2026
16 - 20 November 2026

- Hear from leading experts
- Strengthen multi-agency relationships
- Learn from lived experience and real world practice
- Explore emerging safeguarding risks and challenges
- Discover practical approaches you can use immediately
- Access free learning opportunities throughout the week

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

 SAFEGUARDING BOARD
ISLE OF MAN

Safeguarding is everyone's business.

By learning together and strengthening partnerships, we can help create safer services, stronger communities and better outcomes for those most at risk. The full programme details and booking information will soon be available on our Safeguarding Board website. and if your organisation is planning anything for the week, please do share it by contacting our Learning & Development officer: andrew.hodkin@gov.im.

ROTH PROTOCOL

INTRODUCTION:

New Risk Outside the Home Protocol Sessions

ESSENTIAL PRACTICE LEARNING

23 September 2026

9:30 - 12:30 13:30 - 16:30

24 September 2026

9:30 - 12:30 13:30 - 16:30

 Barrool Suite, Legislative Buildings

TO APPLY, EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO:
safeguardingboardtraining@gov.im

Late September saw practitioners from across the safeguarding partnership attending a series of sessions introducing the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board's Risk Outside the Home Protocol. The sessions explored the growing risks that children and young people can face beyond their family environment, including exploitation, peer-on-peer harm, online risks and concerns within community settings.

ROTH PROTOCOL CONTINUED

Attendees were introduced to the key principles of the protocol, with a focus on partnership working, contextual safeguarding and understanding the wider environments where harm can occur. The sessions also encouraged discussion about how agencies can work together to identify risks earlier and provide effective support to children and young people.

Feedback from participants highlighted the value of having a shared framework and language for responding to concerns. The Safeguarding Board would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the discussions as we continue to strengthen our collective response to risks outside the home.

ESCALATION POLICY UPDATE

The Safeguarding Board has recently updated its Professional Escalation Policy, reinforcing the importance of professional challenge and constructive disagreement when concerns arise about safeguarding practice or decision-making.

Effective safeguarding relies on professionals being able to raise concerns confidently when they believe a decision, action, or lack of action may place a child, young person, or adult at risk. The updated policy provides clearer guidance on how concerns should be raised, how disagreements should be managed, and the steps available when resolution cannot be reached at the earliest stage.

The policy supports a culture of professional curiosity, respectful challenge and collaborative working across agencies. By addressing disagreements promptly and effectively, practitioners can help ensure that safeguarding concerns remain focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for individuals and families.

All practitioners are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the updated policy and incorporate its principles into their day-to-day practice. The policy is available on the Safeguarding Board website and Resource Hub.

Professional challenge is not about apportioning blame. It is about ensuring that safeguarding concerns are heard, explored and acted upon effectively.

DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH



This Domestic Abuse Awareness Month, we're challenging the behaviours that are a part of domestic abuse, coercive control and sexual abuse.

We will, along with our partners in The Isle of Man Domestic Abuse Forum, be sharing a series of posts called "The Power to Challenge" throughout October, highlighting behaviours that are part of Domestic Abuse, and encouraging people to challenge (safely) these behaviours.



RESOURCE HUB

As part of our ongoing efforts to encourage a broader spectrum of learning opportunities, we are pleased to launch our new Safeguarding Resource Hub, a dedicated online space bringing together a wide range of safeguarding information, learning materials and practical tools in one easy-to-access location.

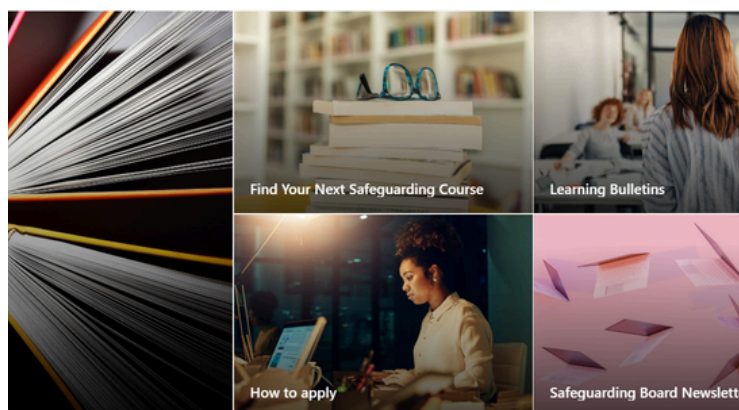
The Hub has been designed to support professionals, volunteers and partner agencies by providing quick access to guidance, policies, research, videos, learning resources and good practice materials across both children's and adults' safeguarding. Whether you're looking for information to support frontline practice, training delivery or professional development, the Resource Hub offers a growing library of trusted resources.

RESOURCE HUB



The Resource Hub will continue to evolve, with new content added regularly to reflect emerging safeguarding issues, learning from reviews and feedback from practitioners.

We encourage everyone working in safeguarding to explore the Resource Hub and make use of the resources available.



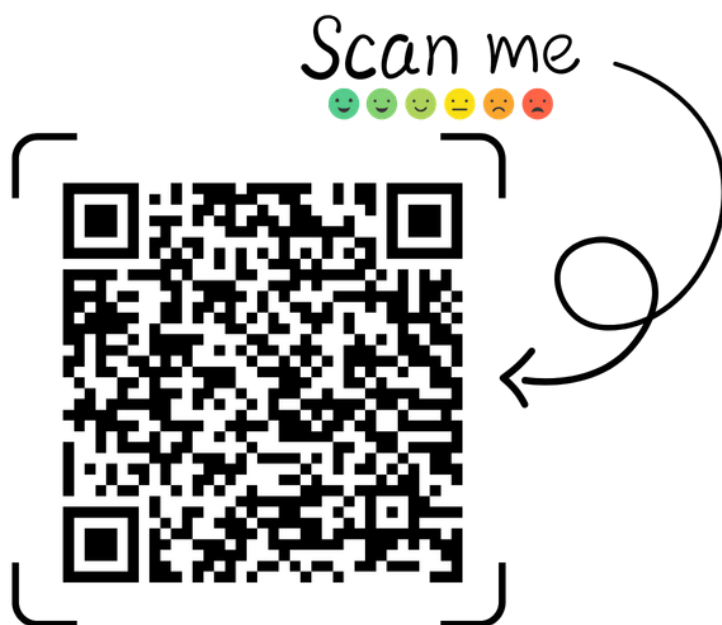
By sharing knowledge and promoting good practice, we can strengthen safeguarding across the Island and help achieve better outcomes for children, adults and families.

For assistance with the Resource Hub please email: andrew.hodkin@gov.im for a link and access details.

TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS

Each year as we look ahead to our Learning & Development offer, we are keen to hear the views of professionals and practitioners on what they would like to see to support their safeguarding practice. Please take a few moments to access our training needs analysis questionnaire via the QR Code.

Closing date, October 30th.



If you have a concern about a child contact
Children and Families: 01624 686179

If you have a concern about an adult contact
Adult Safeguarding: 01624 685969

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