

NEWSLETTER

Inside This Issue:

- Learning & Development 1
- Safeguarding Training Updates 1
- IOM Fire & Rescue Community Programmes 2
- Community Engagement Work 3
- Safeguarding Week 2025 Recap 4
- Autism Acceptance Month 2026 5
- Safeguarding Concerns 5

Learning & Development

Since the last update, **several key training sessions have taken** place to strengthen safeguarding practice across multi-agency partners.

Additionally, a number of **workshops** have been delivered by industry experts on:

- MASM
- Professional Curiosity
- Thresholds workshops

In December there were **two Level 3 Multi-agency Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse Training days**. 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.

February brought **six consent embedding sessions** led by **Siobhan Burns**, designed to build and consolidate on the Safeguarding Board's Consent Guidance document published in August 2025 which can be accessed [here](#).



Safeguarding Training Updates

Phase 1 of the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board's **training schedule for May to November has now been published**. Delivering training opportunities to multi-agency audiences, the schedule reflects the recommendations made in Serious Case Managements Reviews, Thematic Reviews and Board recommendations. The training is facilitated by experienced professionals and practitioners, along with commissioned experts in their fields.

To view the training schedule and enquire about booking [visit our website](#).

IOM FIRE & RESCUE 2026 COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES



Mark Connor a **Fire Prevention Officer** gave us insight into the valuable work they do in the community.

“My primary responsibility is to **reduce fire risk and promote safety across the island** through education, engagement, and proactive intervention. Our work focuses on informing the community about hazards and supporting initiatives that **protect lives and property of the vulnerable members of the community**.

In 2026, we will introduce two schemes aimed at teaching safety to secondary school aged young people on the island. The **Drop Wise scheme** offers a full day of personal safety training in collaboration with all emergency services. **Our Drive Safe campaign** will continue, and a new northern based Road Show is in the early planning stages.

We also work closely with Police, Probation, and Safeguarding teams to address fire-setting behaviours and protect vulnerable individuals. Our partnerships extend to wellbeing groups and third-sector agencies to promote the Home Fire Safety campaign. This includes **free home safety checks, online tools, and training** for professionals who regularly visit at-risk people.

We maintain “Locations of Interest” records to assist crews during incidents. These include details on mobility, disabilities, hoarding, fire loading, and safeguarding concerns—critical information that helps firefighters make informed decisions during emergencies.

Safeguarding is a priority; all crews receive awareness training, and Fire Prevention often raises new cases during home visits.

Seasonal Campaigns:

Summer: Focuses on dementia support, day centers’, and Alzheimer’s awareness for carers.

Winter: Emphasizes safe practices during festive periods, including joint ventures with Manx Utilities to highlight risks such as overloaded sockets and candle use.

A typical day is varied—planning events, conducting home visits, updating records, posting safety messages, and liaising with agencies. We also maintain operational competencies and respond to incidents when required. **No two days are the same;** our work ranges from community engagement and education to safeguarding and emergency response, ensuring the island’s most vulnerable residents receive the support they need.

It’s a pleasure to work in a multi-agency approach to ensure the **Isle of Man Fire and Rescue Services’ vision: ‘To be the Safest Small Island Community’.**

Safeguarding Board Community Engagement Work



Andy Hodkin, Learning & Development Officer for the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board writes about his recent **engagement activities**:

Listening to children, vulnerable adults and their families is central to the work of the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board, and this year we have renewed our commitment to meaningful engagement. One of the priorities within our 2024/25 Annual Report was to **strengthen our connections with partners, service users and their families** so that safeguarding practice across the Island **continues to be informed by real experiences and shared understanding**.

When I became the board's Learning & Development Officer last May, one of the aspects of the role that excited me was meaningful engagement with our communities.

Over recent months, I have had the opportunity to visit a range of groups and organisations across the Island, including **youth clubs** (in the North, South, East & West) **carers groups**, and several excellent third-sector **charities and organisations**. These visits have provided invaluable opportunities to meet people *where they are*, hear about their **day-to-day realities**, and continue the process of placing their voices at the heart of safeguarding.

This will be a **continuous process throughout the year**, and so far, each group has offered a unique and valuable perspective. I give particular **thanks to the young people** I have met in the youth clubs who have spoken with **honesty and imagination** (and at times great humour!).

Staff and volunteers from third-sector organisations have shared examples of strong partnership working and real commitment to improving the quality of life for communities on the Isle of Man.

Despite the diversity of settings, several **common themes have already emerged**. There has been an emphasis on the value of **building relationships** across services and crucially, there was a shared belief that safeguarding is not the responsibility of one agency alone, but a **collective effort** that works best when communication is **open and support is accessible**.

These conversations have already **shaped how we think** about future engagement and training. They have reinforced the Board's commitment to continuing this work throughout the year, ensuring that feedback informs our priorities and strengthens collaboration across all sectors.

We want to ensure this engagement is meaningful and purposeful. **Our next steps** will focus not only on listening to the voices of our communities but on **enabling genuine collaboration in shaping the board's policies and activities**. By working closely with community groups, we aim to **strengthen scrutiny, support the development and delivery of learning opportunities**, and embed service-user engagement throughout all aspects of our work.

We will continue to reach out to **new groups, offer further listening sessions**, and look for opportunities to share learning more widely. If your organisation would like to take part in a future visit or contribute your views, we would be **delighted to hear from you**.

Safeguarding is strongest when everyone feels heard. Thank you to all who have welcomed us into their spaces and shared their experiences so openly.

Safeguarding Conference

The Isle of Man Safeguarding Conference 2025 brought together practitioners from across the island for a **dynamic day of learning** and collaboration. Centred around the Board's strategic priorities, the event featured **expert-led sessions and keynote presentations** focused on improving multi-agency safeguarding, tackling neglect, and addressing risks beyond the home. Key themes included **trauma-informed practice, ACEs, professional curiosity, effective communication, neurodivergence, online safety, and hidden harm—each** reinforcing the importance of reflective, informed, and joined-up safeguarding practice.



Safeguarding Week 2025 Recap



Safeguarding Week was a **success**, bringing together professionals and the public to strengthen safeguarding practices across our community. Over the course of the week **15 events were delivered**, including 3 public-facing sessions and 13 collaborative sessions with partner agencies.

Content ranged from:

- Interactive **workshops** on 'Hidden harm and substance abuse'.
- **presentations** on: Trauma Informed Practice and ACE's.
- **Online sessions:** on on Cyber Safety, Mental Health & Capacity, the Homelessness Pathway, Neurodivergence and Safeguarding.

We would like to extend our **sincere thanks to our collaborators** who presented that week - **Motiv8, Adult Safeguarding Team, Crossroads, Cyber Security Centre, the Wellbeing Partnerships, IOM Constabulary, Lights on Learning, and the Manx Deaf Society.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: JOIN OUR POOL OF TRAINERS

The Safeguarding Board is **reliant on our multi-agency pool of 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.**

Autism Acceptance Month



April 2026 is Autism Acceptance Month. During the month individuals and organisations are encouraged to think and discuss ways we can make our island more ACS-friendly.

The Isle of Man Health, Learning and Social Policy Board have published a Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Strategy. The goal of **the strategy is simple: to create an ASC-friendly island.** The strategy highlights the 6 main goals with target dates for implementation.

A copy of the full strategy is available [here](#).

Guidance and Case Studies about how to be more autism-friendly [here](#).

Safeguarding Concerns

What to do if you have a safeguarding concern:

- 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 highlighted on the right 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.

- **Children: (01624) 631212** (IOM Police HQ) out of office hours and ask to speak to the on-call social worker.
- **Adults: (01624) 650000** (Nobles Hospital) 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 inbox is not monitored outside of office hours and is not to be used to report specific safeguarding concerns.*



Follow the Safeguarding Board on social media to stay updated with latest news, best practices, policy changes, training opportunities and community initiatives.