



The Diocesan Safeguarding Oversight Group (DSOG) scrutinises safeguarding strategy and arrangements in the Diocese of Leicester. Meeting quarterly, it brings together officers from the diocese with representatives from external agencies, including children & adult services, police and probation. DSOG is independently chaired by Adrienne Plunkett, a social worker with a background in Children's Services, as a practitioner and senior manager.

At the meeting on **4th March 2026**, Adrienne Plunkett welcomed Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester, to give feedback on the action being taken following the **Culture and Leadership Survey** conducted last year. The results had been encouragingly positive overall, but there were areas where contributors considered the diocese could improve, e.g. processes around poor behaviour/bullying, training on spiritual abuse, communication of positive safeguarding outcomes, feedback about concerns raised, visibility of senior managers. An Action Plan has been drawn up by Bishop's Leadership Team (BLT), with input from the Director of Operations and Governance, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and DSOG Independent Chair. BLT will monitor the progress of this Plan and DSOG will receive further feedback in December 2026.

Safeguarding Structures Programme: DSOG noted the decision of the General Synod in February to establish an **Independent Safeguarding Authority**, responsible for the national functions, e.g. National Safeguarding Team, casework, quality assurance, and an **independent ombudsman service** to provide the final decision on complaints. This is an important step.

Bishops' Children and Youth Council Safeguarding Listening Report: Rachael Spiers, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, presented the report produced by Matt Long, Diocesan Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Communities Enabler. This followed a listening exercise on safeguarding in 2025 aimed at finding out what would help children and young people feel safe in church settings. Key messages are the importance of children being familiar with those who have responsibility for safeguarding and information being provided face to face, not just online. [You can read the report here.](#)

DSOG went on to have discussions around the following matters:

- **INEQE Safeguarding Audit:** DSOG received an update on preparation for the independent audit taking place in the Diocese and Cathedral in Autumn 2026.
- **Safeguarding Risk Register:** Andy Brockbank presented the Risk Register, thanking Julie Croysdale, Parish Safeguarding Coordinator, for her extensive contribution.
- **Strategy & Business Plan:** DSOG approved the updated Strategy and Action Plan.
- **Escalation:** DSOG noted the work undertaken by DSO in establishing arrangements with external agencies, i.e. police, probation, LADO, to minimise delays in information sharing. Progress is being made and DSO will bring further update in June.

DSOG also received regular reports from the Cathedral and Parish Safeguarding Coordinators. The Quality and Improvement Sub-Group reported on the recent audit of Safeguarding Core Groups (now Safeguarding Case Management Groups) which evidenced robust decision-making whilst making recommendations concerning consistency of minutes.