

St. Patrick's Safeguarding Structure, Roles, and Responsibilities

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) was set up by The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as a response to the recommendations of an independent review of the Catholic Church's safeguarding, in November 2020 (sometimes called the Elliott Report).

The Elliott Report recommended wide-ranging reforms to safeguarding. The need for change was fuelled by respect for those who had suffered, and the desire to prevent future harm. Vitally, the Review listened and learned from those who had experienced abuse.

The CSSA was set up as a new professional standards body with regulatory powers who exist to regulate all Catholic Church bodies in their One Church approach to safeguarding, and to share what the CSSA find.

The Diocesan safeguarding team supports the ministry of the Church by providing a professional and robust support around the protection of children, young people and adults at risk, to ensure that worshipping communities are safe places where all have a positive experience of the Church in which they feel loved, accepted and safe. All issues will be dealt with in a sensitive and caring manner, in the strictest of confidence. The dedicated safeguarding team work closely with other agencies including the Police, Probation and Social Services.

CSSA website: <https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Clifton Diocese website: <https://cliftondiocese.com/departments/safeguarding>

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs) are volunteers who provide assistance and support to their parish in Safeguarding matters. The PSR's role is a very important one because it helps keep our parish communities safe from harm and abuse by creating safe environments where everyone flourishes. The PSR works in partnership with the Parish Priest, Parish Leaders, Volunteers and Diocesan Safeguarding Team to ensure everyone can participate in parish activities happily and safely; especially those considered vulnerable including children, young people, and adults at risk.

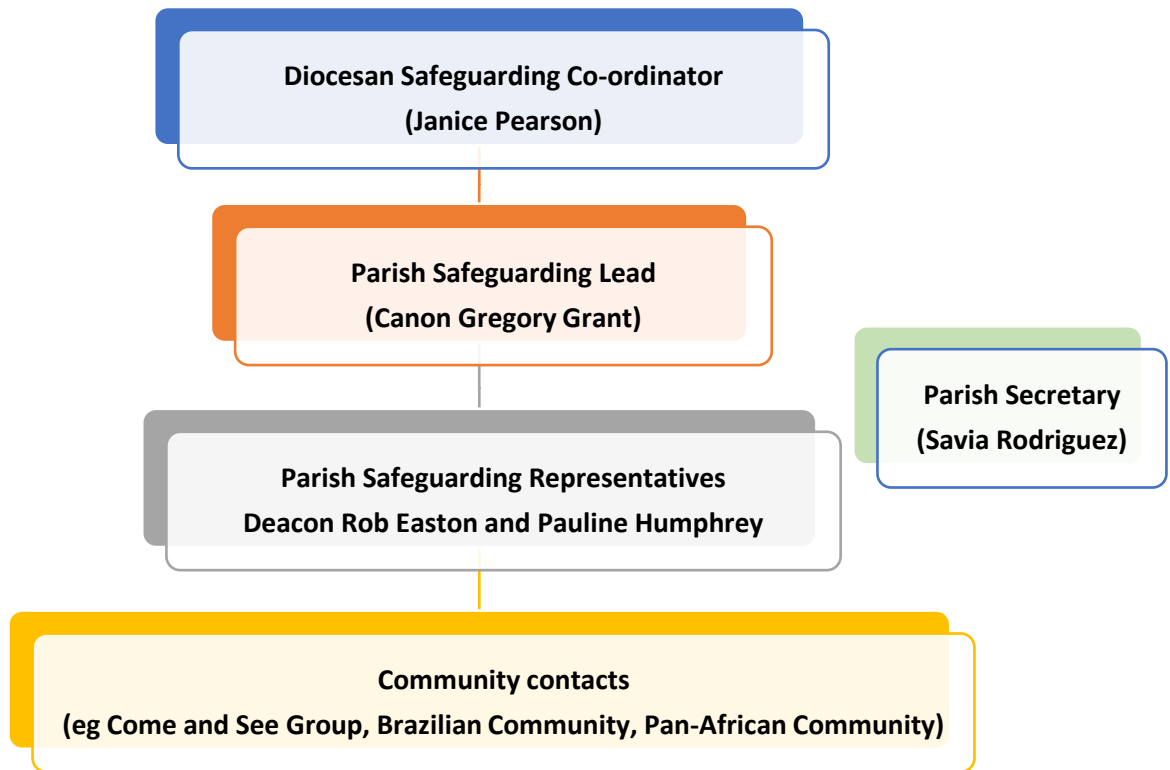
Currently, the Diocese has 109 PSRs across its 9 Pastoral Deaneries and 96 Parishes.

The four main areas of a PSR's work involve:

- Reporting and Responding to all Safeguarding concerns
- Safe Recruitment of volunteers (including DBS applications)
- Creating a Safe environment in your parish
- Promote a Culture of Safeguarding in parishes

St Patrick's Parish have two appointed PSRs, Pauline Humphrey and Deacon Rob Easton.

Flow diagram of St Patrick's Parish Safeguarding structure



St. Patrick's Parish Safeguarding Roles, and Responsibility.

1. The Safeguarding Lead (Parish Priest) will chair a quarterly safeguarding meeting with the PSRs.
2. The Parish secretary will arrange safeguarding meetings, as directed by the Safeguarding Lead or PSRs.
3. The Parish secretary will assist the PSRs in the administrative processing of safe recruitment and DBS checks for Parish volunteers identified as requiring DBS checks.
4. The PSRs will carry out the roles and responsibilities of PSR's outlined in the PSR role profile, and the Diocesan website, in line with training from the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator.
5. When relevant, in the absence of the Safeguarding Lead the PSRs will escalate safeguarding issues or concerns to the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Concerns or allegations that may involve the Safeguarding Lead will be escalated to the Diocese Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Concerns or allegations that may involve a PSR will be escalated to the Safeguarding Lead and the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator.
6. Community Contacts (CC) will be appointed from each parish group or community, to liaise with the PSRs to support and facilitate safeguarding activities in their respective Parish groups or communities. They will be required to attend Level 2 (intermediate) safeguarding training (provided by CSSA). They will be required to report safeguarding events promptly to the PSRs and Parish Office and act on advice received. The CCs will promote a culture of Safeguarding in St Patrick's Parish. They are not expected to be experts in safeguarding, but to be a link person between the communities or groups and the PSRs.
7. Community contacts will be appointed from Parish groups and communities such as:
 - Come and see Group
 - Pan-African Community
 - Brazilian Community
 - Indian Community
 - Polish Community
 - Altar servers
 - Catechists
 - Children's Liturgy Catechists
 - Eucharistic ministers for the sick and housebound
 - The Legion of Mary
 - Fund-raising groups/special events

For Diocesan Safeguarding roles, responsibilities and accountability, see:

<https://cliftondiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Safeguarding-accountability-structure-and-lines-of-reporting-Jan-24-003.pdf>

From Clifton Diocese website (January 2024):

