

The District have received the final report from the Connexional Safeguarding Audit which was undertaken in the Autumn of 2022. It is a very positive summary of East Anglia's Safeguarding ethos and practice.

Thank you to all who took part in the process, either in interview or by responding to the questionnaire. I am including a few of the comments here in the newsletter but the full report can be read [here](#).

With best wishes,

Jane

Responses were received from

- i) Interviews with those who hold formal leadership roles in safeguarding at a district level, the District Chair, the District Safeguarding Officer and members of the District Safeguarding Group. In the East Anglia district 7 members of the DSG were able to take part in the audit. The Chair of District and DSO chose not to take part in order to give freedom of expression to the Group.
- ii) A small number of anonymised and randomly selected superintendents, presbyters and deacons. In the East Anglia District 3 superintendents, 3 presbyters and 2 deacons were interviewed.
- iii) Responses to the survey were submitted by 7 circuit safeguarding officers and 21 church safeguarding officers.

What the Audit said about

The District Safeguarding Group: "The DSG is, impressively, a multi-agency team [which] has helped to raise safeguarding standards in this district. This model appears to be so effective that we would recommend that it be written up as a case study that can then be shared across the wider connexion."

Our response to survivors: "The DSG membership includes a survivor whose voice is valued and respected. The survivor is pro-actively involved in raising awareness of the survivor's voice through webinars and other resources. The DSO has presented training on survivor resources, presented survivor resource material to synod and included a survivor in online advanced module training."

District reflections on the Theology of Safeguarding report:

- "The importance of the theology of the cross and survivor impact
- The world created to be good and holy
- The valuing of human life and the references to the creation stories in Genesis
- Affirmation from scripture of our mutual responsibility for one another
- The importance of understanding power dynamics"

Support for Circuits in implementing District and Connexional Safeguarding policies and procedures: "Responses to Circuit and Church safeguarding officers' survey consistently speak of the excellent support received from district and circuit safeguarding officers to support SOs in their work. Other notable comments: good communication around training dates; the accessibility and support of the DSO; regular safeguarding forum; easy to access website information."

Training: "There is abundant evidence that a concerted effort is made to deliver regular training in different formats that is well publicised and invites participant evaluation. There are also examples of bespoke training – for a survivor for example - and flexibility in responding to local needs."

The Theology of Presence: "The attentiveness given to ensure that the district staff work as a team and are visible across the district at all levels - district, circuit and local church - significantly contributes to the development of a robust safeguarding culture."

What next? We have areas for development – looking at the role of Church Safeguarding Officer across two or more churches, greater attention to safeguarding matters at ministerial handover and how we best support safeguarding officers in their roles.

Don't forget to visit the [Safeguarding pages](#) of the District website for training dates and further information.