

Why do we need a Parish Safeguarding Officer?

On page 19-20 of [The CofE Key roles and responsibilities of church office holders and bodies practice guidance \(2017\)](#) it says:

In terms of safeguarding, with the incumbent the PCC will:

Appoint:

*“At least one appropriately experienced designated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and PCC. This PSO should be a lay person. **It cannot be the incumbent.** The PSO may also be the DBS Administrator for church officers who work with children or vulnerable adults but if not, the PCC should appoint another individual. The PSO should be supported, trained and given a copy of the parish safeguarding policy and procedures;”*

We actively encourage all PSOs to raise their profile and visibility within their congregation, so that people know more about safeguarding and who to come to if they have a concern. Please ensure your Promoting a Safeguarding Church poster is updated with the correct details and looks fresh.

We rely on Incumbents (or a Churchwarden if the parish is in interregnum) to [contact us](#) when a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is retiring from post and/or a new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) has finished the process at the parish and has been appointed to the role. This will ensure that your Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) receive support and important information.