

Working alongside Safeguardin g Professional S



1

Introductions Who's in the room?



2



**2 hours
short break**



**Link for slides and
handbook**



**Webcam and
microphones**



**Sensitive and
confidential**

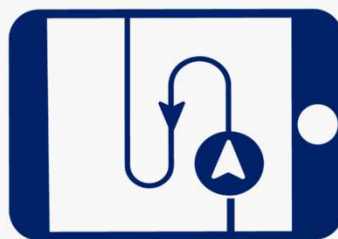


Get support



Chat facility

3



**0303 003 1111 - Option 2
helpline@thirtyoneeight.org**



4

Safeguarding Professionals in statutory agencies

Set up by law (*statute*) to carry out certain services for people and enforce certain rules.

Several agencies have specific duties connected to safeguarding.



5

Addressing faith in the faith & community sector

- Faith is a central concern for many service-users
- Faith is often overlooked by safeguarding professionals
- Outworking of religious views can contradict law
- Spirituality and community is a protective factor



6

Pause and consider:

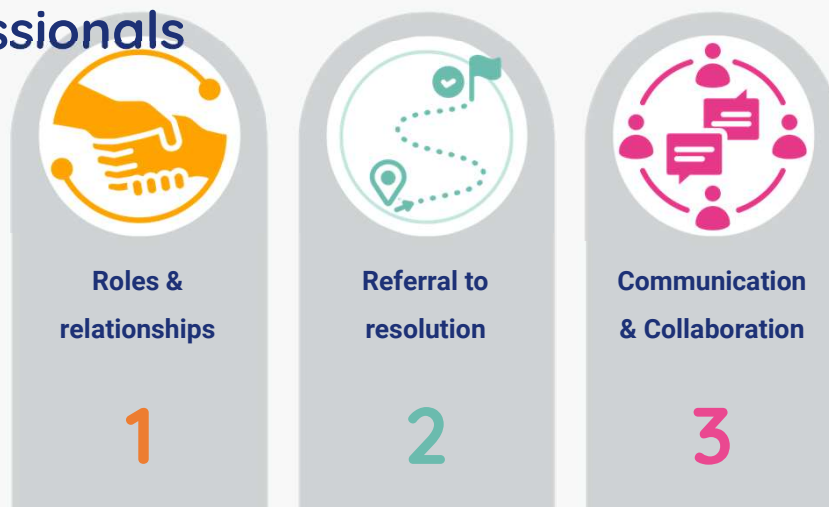
Safeguarding professionals have a responsibility to safeguard people.

- 1) Real life examples
- 2) Who and how
- 3) Faith & Community groups' contribution



7

Working alongside safeguarding professionals



8

Working alongside safeguarding professionals



- Different Roles, Shared Goals
- Roles: Yours and Theirs
- Relationships: The context
- Relationships: The realities

9

Different roles, shared goals...



Legal duty

Safeguarding (*def.*):
“...enabling people to live free from
harm, abuse and neglect.”

Moral duty



10

Your role: Case Scenario

- 1) What roles?
- 2) What goals?
- 3) Shared or oppositional?



11

Scenario 1 – Accompanying Dory

- Mo and Dory have recently separated
- Son's school referred them to social services
- Mo wants you to communicate on her behalf

12

Your role in the process



1. Safeguard the
'at risk' individual



2. Support &
advocate



3. Support the
safeguarding
process

13

Your role: Safeguarding duties



- Legislation and guidance
- Basic legal literacy
- Commitment to partnership working

14

Their role

- Regulated professions
- Services required by law
- Significant challenges

Guidance UK regulated professions and their regulators

Statutory Agency	Statutory duties	Subsidiary bodies	Lead and regulatory bodies
Education	Provide free education for all	Identify and report concerns, support vulnerable students	Department of Education Ofsted
Local social services	Child and adult safeguarding Care planning	Protection alerts Investigations Monitoring and review	Nation specific, e.g. Local Social Care Councils England, Northern Ireland, Scotland
Health care	Primary, secondary and emergency health	Patient advocacy Reporting concerns	General Medical Council (GMC)
Police	Public order Crime prevention	Emergency response Protecting the vulnerable	Nation specific, e.g. Police Investigations and Review Commissioner
Multi-agency/regional	Information sharing Monitoring	Risk assessment Collaboration	Any/all of the above where those services were involved

The above is a general overview of what the various statutory agencies do and how they're overseen and regulated. The specifics will vary between local authorities and UK nations, and there are several issues to simplify the picture with over 200 regulatory bodies currently in place. We include this here to highlight that – in contrast to the current faith and community sector which has no statutory regulation – safeguarding professionals in statutory agencies are strongly accountable to them. This accounts for some of the differences between roles when safeguarding together.

profession?

defined in the [Regulated Professions Act 2017](#) as a profession if it is a profession which is regulated by a statutory body and which is a profession which is regulated by a statutory body.

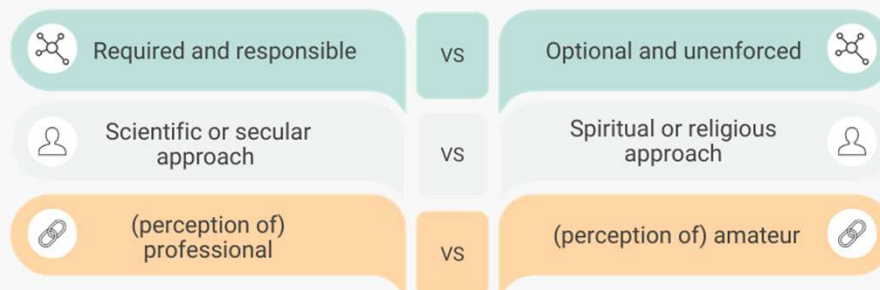
regulated in the UK, am?

As mentioned in this 2017 other regulatory bodies and regulators, the UK regulatory bodies have been set up.



15

Roles: Potential tension



16

Relationships: The potential



- Fill gaps
- Provide context
- Enhance resilience

“Social workers will only be competent to engage with people if they, also, engage with these important aspects of many individuals’ lives.”

Religion, Belief and Social Work

17



18

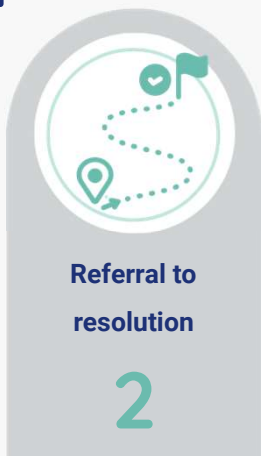
Key Action: Roles & Relationships

Equip yourself for the 3 possible 'roles in the process'.



19

Working alongside safeguarding professionals



- Referrals: To / from safeguarding professionals
- What partnership looks like
- Resolution: Ensuring safe outcomes

20

Referrals **to** safeguarding professionals



Who



What



When



How

21

Referrals **to** safeguarding professionals: Case Scenario

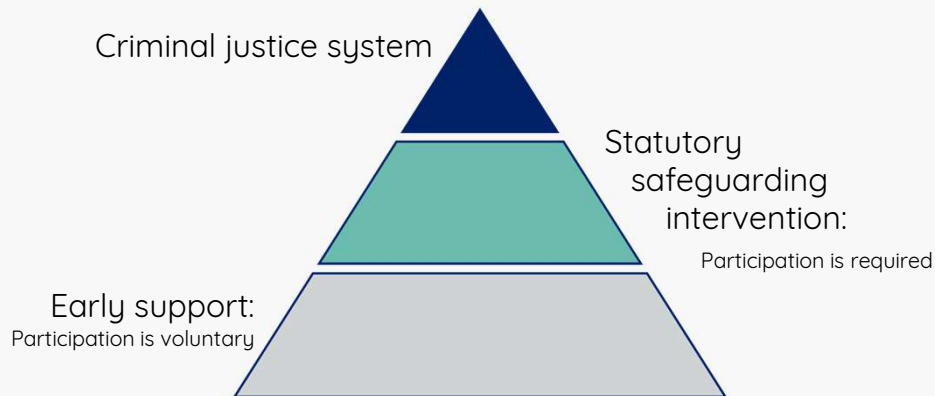
Review your safeguarding notes from 2021.

- 1) What is helpful?
- 2) What is unhelpful?



22

Referrals **to/from** safeguarding professionals: Levels of intervention



23

Referrals **to/from** safeguarding professionals: Criminal justice system



- Several places of intersectionality
- Working alongside safeguarding professionals often involves being or supporting a witness

1.

Witness of Fact

2.

Expert Witness

3.

Vulnerable witness

4.

Character Witness




5

Witness in
Safeguarding
Proceeding

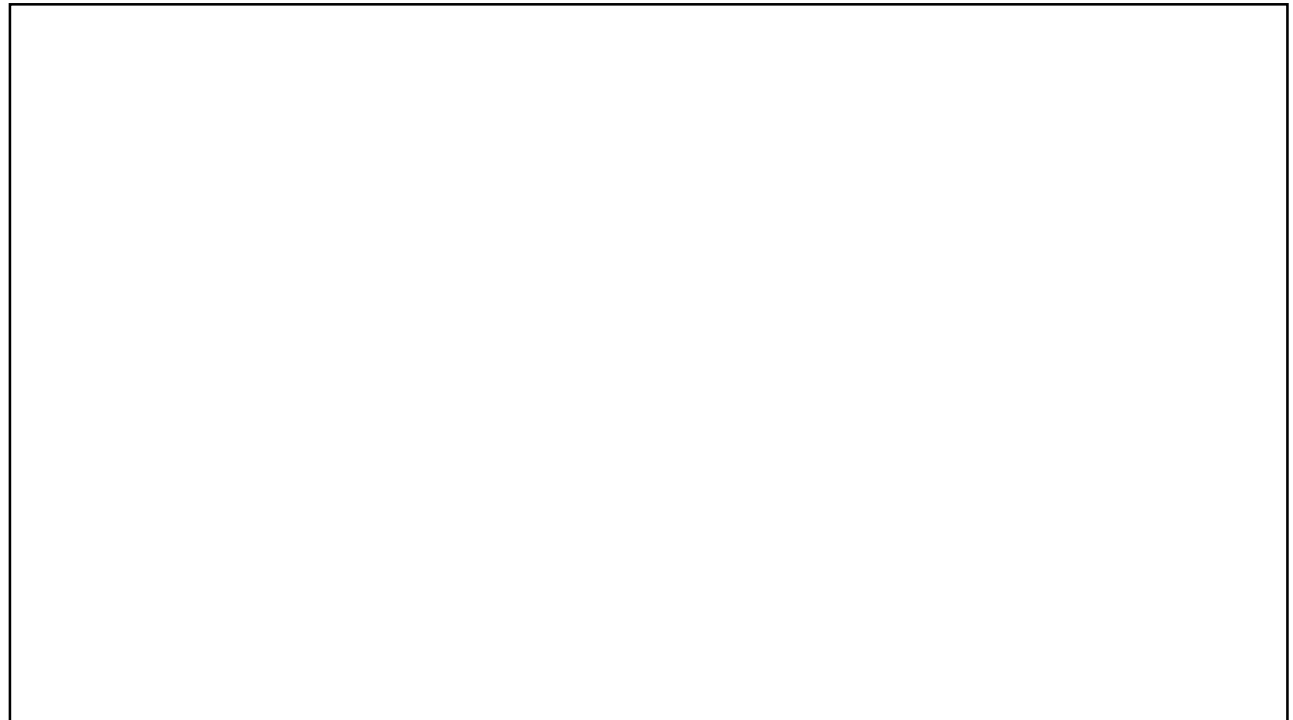
24

Referrals **from** safeguarding professional



-  Formal arrangements
-  Social Prescribing
-  Informal arrangements

25



26



27

10:00

28

(Who, what, when, how)... **why**



1. Safeguard the
'at risk' individual

2. Support &
advocate



3. Support the
safeguarding
process

29

What partnership looks like: Be prese



- Contact details
- Availability
- Responsiveness



What practical things
do you do to **build** and
maintain strong
relationships with
safeguarding
professionals?

30

What partnership looks like: Be committed



31

Resolution – Ensuring safe outcomes

A good resolution:

- Ensures the individuals' safety
- Addresses all concerns
- Involves a comprehensive plan supported by all involved.



32

Resolution – Ensuring safe outcomes



Safeguarding situations are fluid:

- Contingency plans
- Understand what will trigger a re-referral

33

Resolution – Reflect & escalate if needed



Reflect with your team



Whistleblowing / ombudsman / commissioner



Specialist community & advocacy groups

34

Victim-Survivor:

“

The judge describes the victim as having “participated willingly and enthusiastically in [the sexual conduct] and had enjoyed it”. This does not, it seems, reflect anything which was actually said by her.

”

35

Resolution – Our emotional wellbeing



Pause and consider:

What healthy coping techniques can we use to navigate less-than-ideal resolutions?



36

Key Action: From referral to resolution

- Read through the Safeguarding Assurances list in the handbook.
- What elements are you missing?



37

Working alongside safeguarding professionals



- Communicating service-users' voices
- Communicating situations
- Collaborating to reduce risk
- Collaborating to find solutions

38

Victim-Survivor:



Ensure **service-users** are heard

"[They] all are White and all saying the same thing...There are no other Brown people there. I struggle to explain because it is only me."

Miriam, a mother.

39

Communication: Service-users voices



Ensure the **contexts** are understood

- faith-based understanding/context
- the legal context

40

Communication: Situations

1) Communication issues?

2) Supporting role?

Reflect: Reluctance to involve safeguarding professionals?



41

Scenario – Communicating situations

- Distrust between faith group and safeguarding professionals
- History and evidence of abuse
- Case dismissed but had long-standing impacts

42

Referrals from safeguarding professionals



Faith literacy:

(def). a basic understanding of beliefs, behaviours, and institutions of global religious traditions.



Christianity



Islam



Hinduism



Sikhism



Buddhism



Judaism

43

Communication: Situations



Pause and consider:

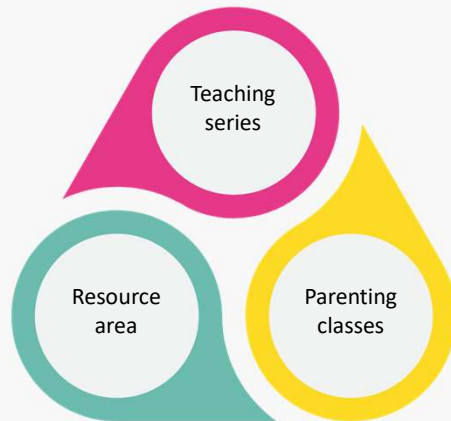
What do your holy scriptures say about the vulnerable? Justice? Abuse?



Would those you're partnering with know these things?

44

Collaboration: Reducing Risk



Creating safer cultures

45

Collaboration: Finding solutions

“

The reality of that emptiness – the responsibility of learning to be you – can feel very, very scary and quite overwhelming.

”

46

Collaboration: Finding solutions



Pause and consider:

How can our faith and community groups offer resilience-building solutions?



This can be preventative, or after statutory agencies step away.

47

Key Actions: Communication & Collaboration

Amplify service-users voices

Collaborate for safer faith communities



48

Review of learning:



49

Your feedback is
important to us



50