



The Diocese of Lancaster Executive Summary Safeguarding Baseline Audit report has been published on the 17th of December 2024.

1. We welcome and fully accept the baseline report from the CSSA, whose role it is to regulate safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and to share what they find.
The report can be found here: <https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Diocese-of-Lancaster-Audit-Report-Executive-Summary.docx>.
The CSSA do this through a programme of planned audits and unscheduled reviews which assess safeguarding practice against the eight National Safeguarding Standards. They also monitor compliance with mandatory requirements, such as the reporting of allegations to statutory authorities.
2. We believe this first baseline report is good, given its stringent criteria. It recognises our strengths and also identifies areas which we need to develop.
3. Our Safeguarding Team welcome this. We thank them for their work and commitment in helping to making our diocese a safe place.
4. Given the evidence that this audit provides, we hope that those who come into contact with the Church in Lancaster Diocese, including our external partners/contacts, will feel confident that we take safeguarding seriously and are delivering results.
5. At parish level, many volunteers help keep children and adults at risk safe within the Church. This is achieved by ensuring that all volunteers are safely recruited and appropriately trained.
6. There have been past failings in England and Wales. However, we are working together to ensure that the Catholic Church is a safe place.
7. We encourage anyone affected to reach out and contact the Safeguarding Office on 01524 596069 or safeguarding@lrcd.org.uk.
8. If a child or adult is at *immediate* risk of significant harm, in the first instance you should always contact the police by dialling 999 and contact your local social services team.

19th December 2024