

How to run a safeguarding awareness course for people new to the UK



Written by Peter Bates, peter.bates96@outlook.com

Introduction

Newcomers to the UK may benefit from a simplified *Introduction to Safeguarding* course. It would help them understand why posters are found in every building, alert them to the law that underpins how UK citizens look out for one another and gently explore cultural differences in care for children and vulnerable adults. The text would be about 500 words long, use easy English and have captions available in many languages. It would come before existing formal accredited safeguarding courses and mesh in with them.

This document collates the findings from a search for such a course and recommendations about its content and style of delivery. Please send improvements, additions and corrections to peter.bates96@outlook.com.

Existing courses

Some organisations focus on one aspect of safeguarding, such as sexual abuse, while others focus on a particular sector of the population, such as a faith group.

The Church of England have an accredited Basic Awareness course [here](#) that offers enhanced accessibility. The accessibility options are explained [here](#) and general inquiries may be made [here](#). The text of this course is far too lengthy and complicated for our purpose¹ and it is addressed to Christians who hold an office in church rather than all citizens in all contexts.

The content of an introductory course

Some Easy Read leaflets on safeguarding are available [here](#). Whilst they were created for people with learning disabilities rather than people with limited comprehension of English, there may be some value in reviewing what is covered. Topics that might be covered include:

- The law bans some actions including FGM and violence against another person. Smacking your children is banned in Scotland and Wales.
- All children and some adults are called 'vulnerable' and get extra protection. Everyone can be vulnerable sometimes.
- Some criminals cannot become volunteers so we have to check before anyone can start.
- There are two systems that help keep everyone safe – the Police and Safeguarding teams.
- Most of the people who work in the Police and Safeguarding are kind.
- Men and women make choices for themselves. This includes sex, money and medical treatment, even for married people.

Reflections on delivery

Accreditation

How this paper is being written

The investigation that generated this paper is unfunded and driven by simple curiosity. Accountability is achieved by using the *How to write in public* framework². I am grateful to the people³ who have contributed to this evolving resource. Please send me your suggestions for further improvements.

Inquiries will be gradually sent out to safeguarding networks and organisations⁴, religious organisations⁵, Refugee support organisations⁶, and other social media platforms⁷. By sending a few inquiries at a time, responses can be collated and the online version of this document becomes increasingly valuable, stimulating further contributions.

¹ Checking the first 800 words of this course gave a Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level of 7.6, required for reading the *Harry Potter* stories. The Flesch Reading Ease score was 65, which is only reached by American schoolchildren by age 14-17 and is required for reading *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton. Details [here](#).

² Bates P (2024) [How-to-write-in-public.pdf \(peterbates.org.uk\)](#).

³ Comments have been received from Geoff Knott and Ollie McAllister with thanks. All remaining errors and omissions are the sole responsibility of the author. The information is provided in good faith and so readers engage with the contents at their own risk and undertake not to hold the author liable for any injury, loss, or damage arising through reading or acting on its contents.

⁴ Inquiry sent to [City of Sanctuary](#) and [ODILS](#).

⁵ Inquiries sent to [FACES](#), [Transforming Notts Together](#), [Welcome Churches](#), [Welcome Network Coordinators](#) Facebook page, 10 churches, Ian P, Jeremy L and Helen D.

⁶ Inquiry sent to Ollie McAllister.

⁷ Inquiry sent to [Building Bridges](#), [Easy Read](#) Facebook group and [FutureNHS](#) forum.