



BCS Safeguarding Leadership Briefing

Issue: September 2026

Supporting safeguarding leaders through insight,
assurance and practical action

In this Issue

- Leadership Lens: Are your safeguarding arrangements really being scrutinised?
- Safeguarding Intelligence: New guidance releases
- Governance & Assurance: Questions every board should ask this month
- Practical Actions: Actions this month
- Boardroom Question
- From BCS Safeguarding
- Recommended Reading and Resources:

Leadership Lens

A strategic perspective on safeguarding leadership, culture and governance.

Are your safeguarding arrangements really being scrutinised?

A safeguarding report can look reassuring on paper. Training figures are strong. Policies are up to date. Case numbers are being monitored, but are we really asking what sits behind that information?

One of the clearest signs of effective governance is the quality of the questions being asked. So when leaders ask what might we be missing or where are our blind spots, that shifts the conversation from reassurance to curiosity.

Culture isn't one data set. Alongside policies and training, leaders need to understand patterns, contextual risks, safer recruitment, and how knowledge is checked after training. Service user and parent voice should be part of that intelligence too, not an optional extra.

Safeguarding Intelligence

Key national developments, research and emerging safeguarding issues.

Below are the most talked about guidance releases this month. Click on the links to open.

[Prevent duty: practical guidance for DSLs](#)

[Channel meetings: practical guidance for DSLs](#)

[Prevent next-step checklists](#)

[Information sharing to safeguard children and young people](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026](#)

[EYFS statutory framework](#)

[Further education and skills inspection guidance](#)

[Martyn's Law statutory guidance](#)

[Martyn's Law: principal use of premises](#)

[DBS filtering guide](#)

Governance & Assurance

Questions and insights to support effective governance and board assurance.

A useful starting question for boards is, 'Is our current safeguarding culture effective?'
A meaningful answer goes beyond confirming policies and training exist.

Practical Actions

Simple actions safeguarding leaders can implement this month.

Test one piece of safeguarding data. Identify one potential blind spot. Test one assumption with a small evidence check.

The Boardroom Question

A question to stimulate discussion at board or safeguarding committee level.

What evidence do we have that our safeguarding culture is effective across the whole organisation and where might our current assurance be incomplete?

From BCS Safeguarding

A significant part of my work is helping leaders understand whether their arrangements are actually working. If that's something you're reviewing, you can find out more here.

www.bcssafeguarding.co.uk

Recommended Reading/Resources

Before looking for new guidance, read your most recent safeguarding report again, this time as if you were a governor seeking assurance. What would you challenge? What evidence would you ask for?

Next Months Conversation

Audits - When to do them, what happens during and audit and what will you get at the end.

If your organisation would benefit from safeguarding advice, leadership support or governance assurance, I'd be delighted to help.

[Book a discovery meeting here](#)

BCS Safeguarding



Why am I receiving this email?

You are receiving this briefing because you subscribed via our website, LinkedIn, a QR code or through one of our training courses, events or services.

You can unsubscribe at any time using the link below

Unsubscribe

