

Safeguarding --- EXCHANGE

Thursday 29th January 2026
10.00-11.30
Microsoft Teams



unesco

Member
Global Network of
Learning Cities

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Introductions
- RLB Safeguarding
- Discussion
- AoB
- Next Steps

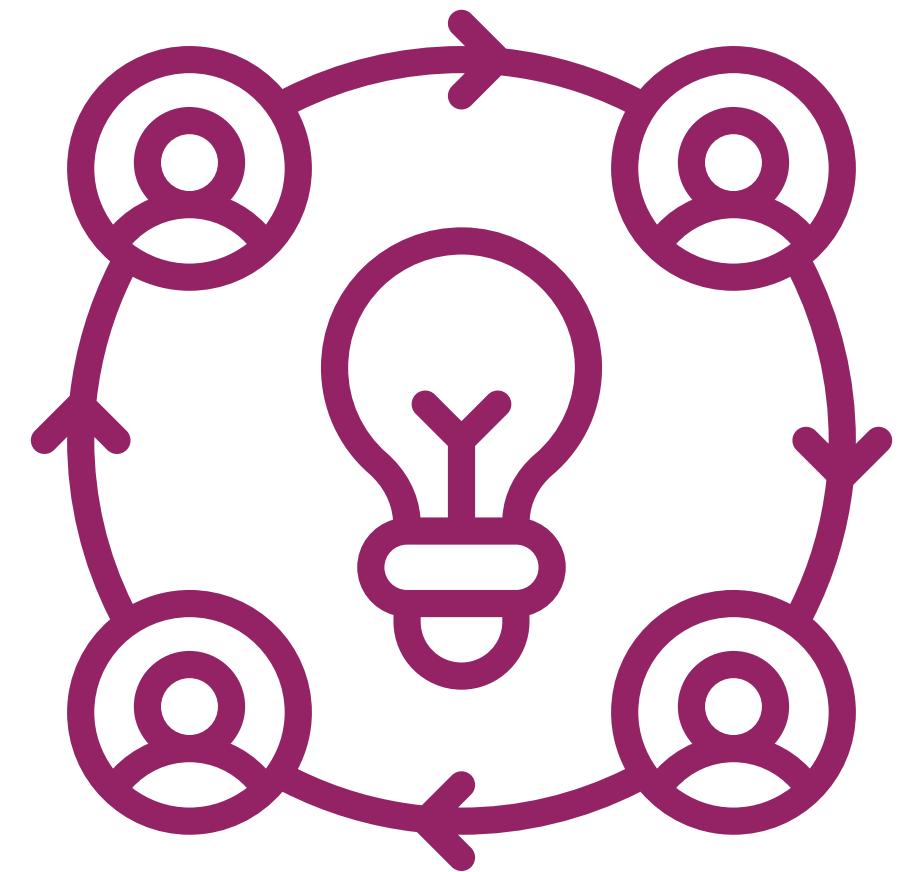
EXCHANGES



SHARE GOOD
PRATICE



DISCUSS
CHALLENGES



COLLABORATE

CURRENT EXCHANGES

GMLPN Member Exclusive



QUALITY



SAFEGUARDING



SEND



FE RECRUITMENT
& WORKFORCE



MENTAL HEALTH
& WELLBEING

EXCHANGES

Open to all providers in GM



CEIAG

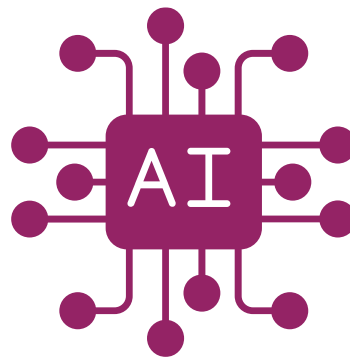


BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

People and Employer Engagement



**Provider
Networks**
Community
of Practice



AI

In partnership with ALPS Alphi (Surrey Provider Network)

Safeguarding – Chair



Anthony Turner

Post-16 Lead
Manchester City Council



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL



GM SKILLS AWARDS 2026

NOMINATIONS OPEN!



GMLPN
Greater Manchester
Learning Provider Network



Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce

Timeline



**w/c 24th
November
2025**

**Nominations
Open**



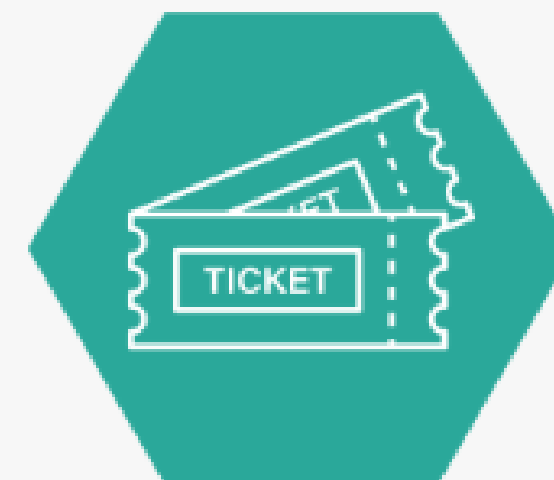
**13th February
2026**

**Nominations
Close**



**w/c 30th
March 2026**

**Shortlists
Announced**



**w/c 30th
March 2026**

Tickets Open



2nd July 2026

**Awards
Evening**



Award Categories



- **Intermediate Apprentice of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Pearson
- **Advanced Apprentice of the Year**
 - Sponsored by GMColleges
- **Higher Apprentice of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Rochdale Training
- **Degree Apprentice of the Year**
- **16-19 Learner of the Year**
 - Sponsored by NOCN
- **Adult Learner of the Year**
 - Sponsored by NCFE
- **Shining Star of the Year**
 - Sponsored by The Growth Company
- **Unsung Hero of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Gateway Qualifications
- **Team of the Year**
 - Sponsored by 1st2 Achieve Training
- **SME of the Year**
 - Sponsored by The Edge Foundation
- **Large Employer of the Year**
 - Sponsored by the NW Apprenticeship Ambassador Network
- **Community Initiative of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Howorth Air Tech
- **Partnership Project of the Year**
 - Sponsored by Manchester, a UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning
- **Outstanding Contribution to FE & Skills 2026**

WELCOME FROM RLB SAFEGUARDING



THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE



WORK-BASED SAFEGUARDING

YOUR BUSINESS _ WINTER 2025/2026

BUILDING SAFER WORKPLACES

There's plenty to learn about the modern approach to safeguarding at work

ften, it is assumed that safeguarding is for schools or charities, however 'safeguarding in the workplace' is now gaining both national and global recognition. Employers now have a legal and moral responsibility not just to protect, but also to proactively promote wellbeing and safety. Additional measures can be put in place when considering safeguarding measures for under-18s and work experience placements, apprentices and employees that may at times be identified as 'at risk or vulnerable'. Frequently, certain issues stem from legislation not having caught up with the realities of the workplace, and a



TOO OFTEN, EMPLOYERS SEEK GUIDANCE IN THE EVENT OF A CRITICAL INCIDENT OR AFTER THE FACT

The ever-growing adoption of health and wellbeing and mental health first aid-style (MHFA) initiatives demonstrates that most businesses do this work without understanding the critical need for safeguarding oversight. Too often, employers will seek guidance from experts in the event of a critical incident or after the fact. Without safeguarding governance frameworks aligning with MHFA strategy, businesses consistently report near-miss risks and on occasion, suicides and other fatalities. The consequences are people being hurt or aggrieved, and in some cases there is a death in service, suicide or murder that brings high-profile media attention. It can leave employers exposed to legal challenges, financial penalties and reputational damage.

What RLB Safeguarding can do for your business

RLB offers industry-led consultancy, policy development, accredited and bespoke training, audit services, and safeguarding lead supervision. Accreditation status ensures that its services align with recognised national standards, giving businesses credibility and reassurance. RLB has worked with corporate and commercial clients to develop policies, deliver accredited training programmes and provide complex case advice and guidance. Clients report that they now have the confidence and assurance of compliance when dealing with complex or emergency safeguarding issues that felt bespoke to their business and people.

Hear from RLB's satisfied clients

"Working with RLB was so easy. An expert in the field takes the time to understand your requirements so that they can tailor their work to fulfil the needs of the organisation. Highly recommended for any of your safeguarding and mental health in the workplace governance needs."

HR MANAGER, NATIONAL AUTHORITY

"RLB truly listened to our needs in the business and were able to offer a bespoke and invaluable solution. RLB provided us with advice and have consulted us on cases, future processes, policies and areas of consideration. This relationship allows us to get familiar with a topic that no one internally specialises on or practices and was an eye opener. All of the support is greatly appreciated!"

HEAD OF PEOPLE, GLOBAL ENGINEERING BUSINESS

lack of published safeguarding specific guidance. Occasionally personal or work-related issues can become a cause for concern, hence the need for employee assistance programmes and additional support services.

Beyond legal obligations

HR professionals and managers have long been addressing complex issues that are not always supported explicitly by employment legislation. When faced with these recurring challenges, there is still an unspoken expectation or obligation whereby they should deal with the issue or support the individual with little or no training, and a lack of knowledge and internal procedures. The most prevalent issues that fall under 'safeguarding' are mental health crisis, suicide, domestic abuse, different types of abuse and neglect, abuse of power from those in a position of trust, discrimination, and harassment.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

FIVE TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS

RLB shares its must-follow advice on how SME owners should implement a safeguarding framework that is fit for purpose

- 1 Develop or review your business's existing safeguarding people policy and procedures.
- 2 Understand how safeguarding interlinks with your people and industry (in a 'business as usual' approach; nobody is expecting you to be emergency service professionals or to step over the line as an employer).
- 3 Provide regular training to increase awareness of safeguarding in the workplace, related issues, your reporting procedures, and roles and responsibilities.
- 4 Have a nominated and trained professional and deputy for advice and action.
- 5 Log and regularly review concerns and ensure data is used for lessons learnt and ongoing business improvements.

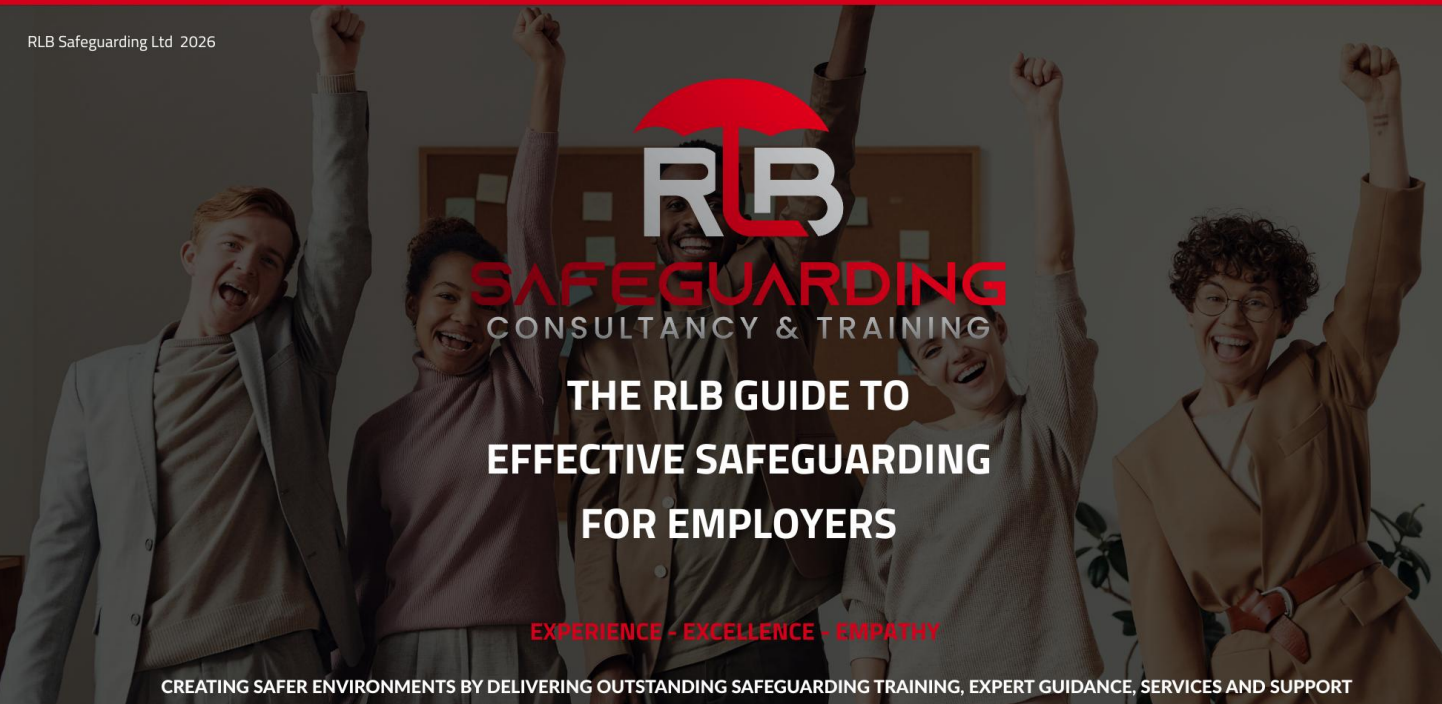
To find out how RLB can help your workplace, email: hello@rlbsafeguarding.co.uk
Book an appointment with Rachael Bishop at: calendly.com/rlbsafeguarding
Or scan the QR code to learn more



Meet the founder

RLB Safeguarding Ltd is both founded and led by safeguarding specialist of 21 years, Rachael Bishop. Over the past decade it has been pioneering and redefining what it means to keep people safe at work.

RLB Safeguarding Ltd 2026



RLB SAFEGUARDING
CONSULTANCY & TRAINING

THE RLB GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING FOR EMPLOYERS

EXPERIENCE - EXCELLENCE - EMPATHY

CREATING SAFER ENVIRONMENTS BY DELIVERING OUTSTANDING SAFEGUARDING TRAINING, EXPERT GUIDANCE, SERVICES AND SUPPORT

OUR RLB STRATEGIC PARTNERS



OFSTED TOOLKIT

- Safeguarding is judged separately from other inspection evaluation areas.
- Judgement is binary for Safeguarding: 'Met' or 'Not met'.
- Focus extends beyond compliance- inspectors evaluate safeguarding culture & lived experience of safety.
- Inspection findings will consider how safe practice is embedded, how incidents are managed, & staff/pupil awareness.
- Safeguarding remains a key pillar alongside leadership & inclusion; a 'Not met' outcome overrides strengths elsewhere.

OFTSTED TOOLKIT

- Inspectors emphasise lived experience: whether learners 'belong, achieve, & thrive' across all settings.
- Inclusion has been elevated: earlier identification & response to learner need (SEND, disadvantaged, or without formal diagnosis).
- Safeguarding culture must be embedded- inspectors will explore how staff feel, how learners report concerns, & how off-site risks are managed.
- Typicality is key- inspectors look for consistent day-to-day safeguarding practice, not showcase examples.
- Updated inspection timelines: full inspections roughly every 4 years; new/merged providers within 3 years; safeguarding issues may trigger earlier visits.
- Unresolved safeguarding weaknesses can lead to monitoring or regulatory action- safeguarding is critical to overall outcome.

KCSIE

The 2025 update, mainly technical amendments, not a major overhaul.

Focus on digital risk & online harm, ensure robust e-safety, filtering, monitoring & staff awareness.

Educational settings must monitor learner engagement/absence & link this to welfare interventions.

Governance & leadership accountability: Senior leaders & boards/trustees must review policies/training considering the updates, embedding a culture of safeguarding rather than just compliance.

Opportunity for providers to refresh policies, training & safeguarding audits ahead of inspections & to demonstrate that they understand evolving risks (e.g., AI, misinformation).

Added more signposting to external support resources (e.g., confidential young people services relating to abuse & harmful behaviours).

Online risk definitions broadened to include Misinformation & disinformation, Conspiracy theories. These are now recognised as potential safeguarding harms to children.

GOOD PRACTICE

What's working well?

- Share with the group
- Top 3 things you are seeing as effective in your organisation.



THE CHALLENGES

- What are your biggest challenges in relation to safeguarding right now?
- Rag rate your top 5 challenges.



WHAT DO YOU NEED?

What would benefit you right now or in the future?

Your top 3 of each...

- Desperately need
- Would be nice to have





ADVANCED DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD - LEVEL 4

1 DAY TRAINING COURSE

Learning hours: 9.30am-4.30pm delivered online.

Cost: £295.00 + VAT per participant.
Group booking discounts will be applied.

AIM OF THE COURSE

Participants will understand the operational roles and responsibilities of the DSL, develop confidence and competence on both operational and strategic levels, and understand how to influence and embed a supportive and effective safeguarding culture for children, adults, and employees.

ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCES

All participants receive a comprehensive handout with key information and detailed resource links. The course will include a range of interactive independent and group learning activities including scenario-based exercises to assess knowledge and awareness of the subject.



07787 243 687
Able to travel nationwide
www.rlbsafeguarding.co.uk
Company number: 14032530

COURSE CONTENTS

Unit 1 - The role of the DSL
Unit 2- Key legislation
Unit 3- Safeguarding practice review learning
Unit 4- Attitudes, values, and barriers to reporting
Unit 5- Dealing with disclosures
Unit 6- Allegations against colleagues
Unit 7- Mental health and suicide prevention
Unit 8- Decision making
Unit 9- Recording and reporting concerns
Unit 10- What happens after a referral is made
Unit 11- The supportive role of the DSL.

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

Aimed at any professional who is already acting as, or aspires to be a DSL or deputy. The course is fully tailored to the Education and Training Sector and post 16 /adult education.

COURSE BENEFITS

- Pre-course survey
- Led by expert trainers with a wealth of knowledge
- Opportunities to network, ask questions and access specialist advice/guidance
- Opportunity to reflect on own practice and current organisational processes
- Improves knowledge and awareness of best practice
- Learning can then be applied throughout your organisation
- Uses a variety of teaching styles
- Uses a range of interactive modules and scenarios
- Accredited certificate following completion
- Comprehensive handout.

**BOOK YOUR
PLACE NOW**

hello@rlbsafeguarding.co.uk



UPCOMING DATES

➤ 3RD MARCH
➤ 16TH APRIL

Contact

hello@rlbsafeguarding.co.uk

10% DISCOUNT ON NEXT 2
SESSIONS!
QUOTE **GMLPN10**

JOIN OUR SPOTLIGHT COMMUNITY

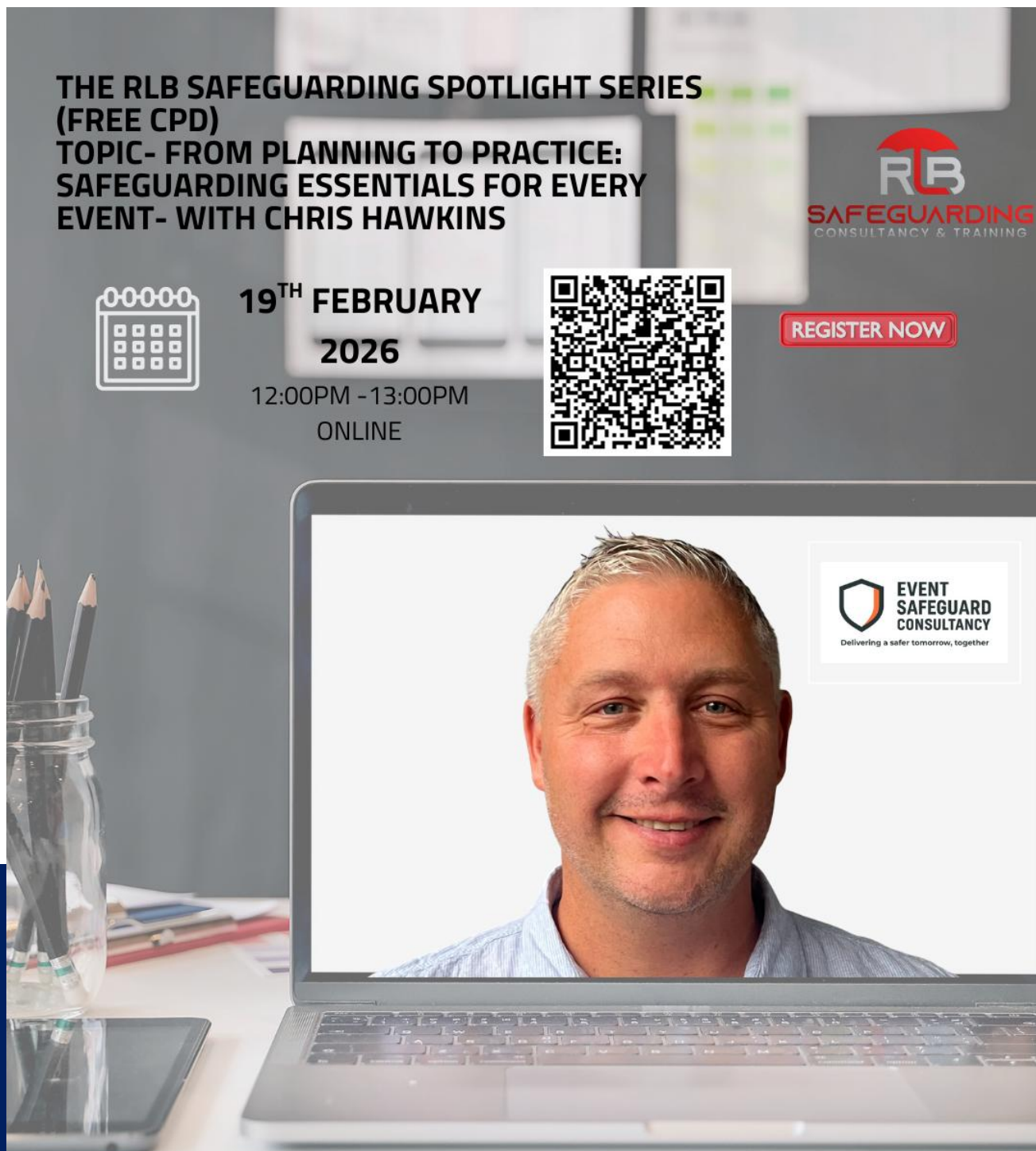
**THE RLB SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT SERIES
(FREE CPD)
TOPIC- FROM PLANNING TO PRACTICE:
SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS FOR EVERY
EVENT- WITH CHRIS HAWKINS**

**19TH FEBRUARY
2026**
12:00PM - 13:00PM
ONLINE

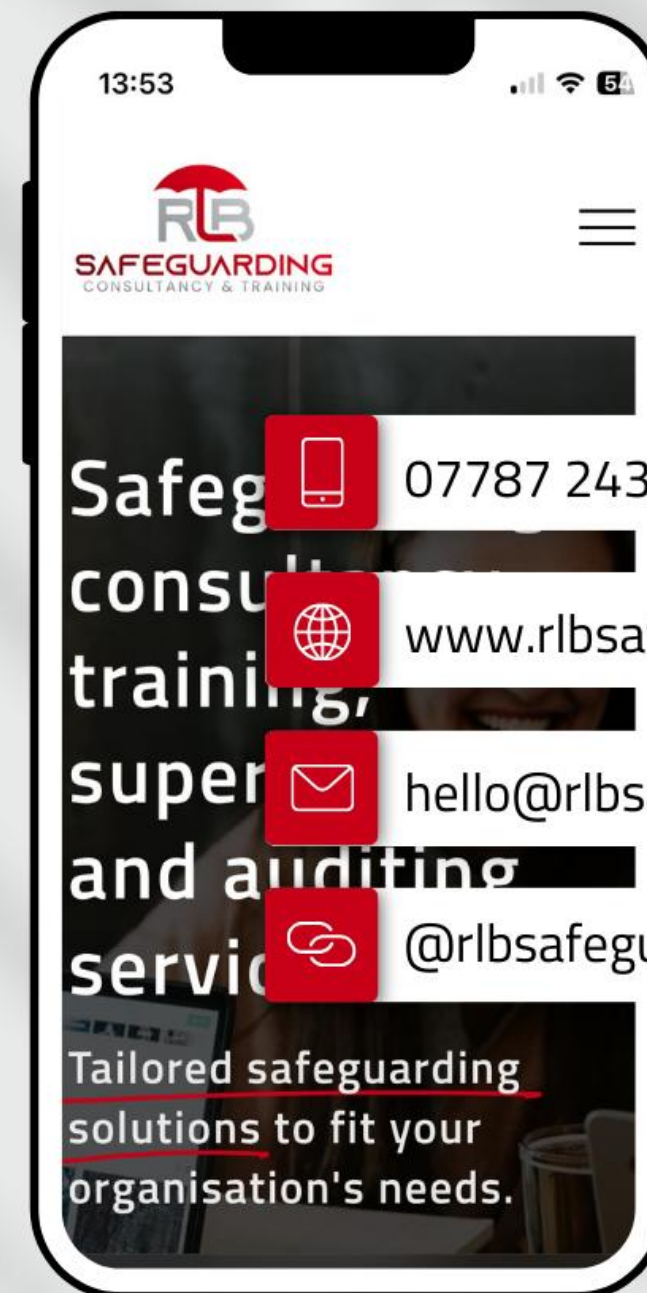
REGISTER NOW

RLB SAFEGUARDING
CONSULTANCY & TRAINING

**EVENT SAFEGUARD
CONSULTANCY**
Delivering a safer tomorrow, together



HOW TO GET IN TOUCH



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Tailored safeguarding
solutions to fit your
organisation's needs.



**ANY
QUESTIONS?**

PREVENT IN EDUCATION SESSIONS



- Extreme Right-Wing Ideology – [Prevent in Education: Extreme Right Wing Ideology Tickets, Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- Emerging Ideologies - [Prevent in Education: Emerging ideologies Tickets, Wed, Mar 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- Antisemitism - [Prevent in Education: Antisemitism Tickets, Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- Signs and Symbols - [Prevent in Education: Signs & Symbols Tickets, Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
-

GMLPN EVENTS



- **CEIAG Exchange** | [Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- **How to Prepare for and Manage Inspection Effectively** | [Fri, Mar 6, 2026 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- **GMLPN Network Meeting** | [Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#) (Ofsted input)
- **Emerging Findings & Lessons Learned from the First Inspections** | [Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- **Powerful Pedagogy in Practice: Turning Evidence into Inclusive Learning** | [Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

AOB

- Next meeting – 30th April
 - **What do you want to cover?**
 - **Is there anything you want to share in terms of best practice?**

NEXT STEPS



- Summary shared
- Online space to host resources – coming soon

Safeguarding **EXCHANGE**

Thank you!



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