Welcome to the SAFEcic November newsletter reviewing the key headlines and stories from October 2026.

Following a weekend of bonfires, fireworks and drops in temperatures across the UK, most of us will probably have been experiencing some unwelcome seasonal fog, leading to decreased visibility and chaos on the roads.

There isn't much we can do about the weather, however we can hopefully help lift the fog from the deluge of seemingly unending safeguarding news stories impacting so many sectors and settings across the UK, highlighting some of the more significant headlines and balancing positive changes, and signposting some useful and 'bookmark-worthy' resources in the process.

Last month saw updates from a range of regulatory bodies, including Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) about the Independent Claims Review Service pilot, OPSS (Office for Product Safety and Standards) issuing safety alerts related to baby sleeping bags, the CQC (Care Quality Commission), requesting help in developing guidance on what good dementia care looks like, and the Charity Commission highlighting how one care home and charitable trust has been charged with corporate manslaughter.

There are also all of the other regular sections, including Online Safety, Worthy of Note and Reason to Remain Vigilant.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends or alternatively, direct them to the sign up page here.

FOR THE OCTOBER 2026 NEWS HEADLINES PLEASE SCROLL DOWN

Stay informed - follow SAFEcic on social media:
Bluesky | Facebook | Insta | LinkedIn |

Safeguarding Audits
SAFEcic offers both Desktop and On-Site Audits that include comprehensive policy reviews, recruitment and record keeping processes, personnel interviews and safeguarding walks to audit premises, activities and services. The expert SAFEcic team has been providing safeguarding audits and pre-inspection audit services for over 25 years. We offer them for a wide range of organisations including charities, businesses, faith groups, leisure, health and education. Find out more.

Safeguarding Rapid Review Service
SAFEcic's Rapid Review Service is a proven, cost-effective and efficient way for busy managers, directors and trustees across many sectors (including Ofsted, CQC and Charity Commission regulated organisations) to gain external, expert insight and support to help their organisation attain the highest level of safeguarding culture, policy, procedures and practice. A Rapid Review takes just two hours of management time via Zoom or Teams and the price includes preparation of a high-level assessment report and an action plan to efficiently and cost effectively address any identified issues. Find out more or book a Rapid Review

Safeguarding Supervision
***"Lead practitioners should have access to high-quality supervision**." – Working Together to Safeguard Children.*
Being a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Leading on Safeguarding in any organisation is one of the most demanding, isolating, and emotionally taxing roles, carrying immense responsibility. Without the right support, it can feel overwhelming. Supervision isn't a luxury, it's essential.

Professional safeguarding supervision helps DSLs and safeguarding teams stay resilient, confident, compliant and effective. It strengthens decision-making, reduces stress, and ultimately creates safer communities.

Why choose SAFEcic?
• Tailored support: 1:1 or group sessions
• Online delivery: Zoom
• Your schedule, your way: ad hoc, monthly, half-termly, termly, or annual
• Cost-effective: discounts for bulk bookings (20+)
Our supervisors are multi-agency professionals with extensive experience supporting educators, charities, managers, and volunteers.

Invest in your team. Protect your community. Safeguarding the safeguarders isn't optional, it's essential.

To find out more, email supervision@safecic.co.uk or click here

Effective Safeguarding Record Keeping - Designed for those who Lead on Safeguarding and their Deputies, the session defines the meanings of confidentiality, consent, information sharing, privacy, mental capacity, record storage, safeguarding record keeping retention periods, data protection and UK GDPR in relation to those records. Read more...

Single Central Record - Designed for personnel involved in managing and reviewing the SCR in regulated educational settings, in line with Ofsted and KCSIE 2026 expectations. This course is thorough, detailed and fully up to date. Read more...

Managing Professional Boundaries - Designed for managers who will gain an understanding of the concept of the duty of care and the code of conduct required when working with children, young people and adults who may be at risk. We look at issues when personnel challenge professional boundaries and debate possible scenarios and the actions that need to be taken when there is a concern that professional boundaries have been breached.

The course is designed for managers of all those who work or volunteer directly, with children, young people, adults at risk and/or their families or carers. All delegates must already have professional boundaries current Safeguarding training certificates in place, as relevant to their role, prior to attending this live 2 hour course via Zoom.

The course includes a digital resource pack and certificate of attendance or each delegate, valid for three years.

For further information click here

Working Together - Designed for professionals who Lead or Deputise for Safeguarding across education, health, social care, police, charity and other key services and aimed at strengthening your multi-agency safeguarding working. This course equips delegates with the knowledge and skills to collaborate effectively and put the child at the centre of every intervention. The course covers key legislation, guidance and local Safeguarding Partnership procedures, while developing your ability to reflect the voice of the child in all assessments and plans. Read more...

SAFEcic's Other Products and Services

In addition to training, we also offer:

DBS Checks
SAFEcic provides DBS Check applications and administration.

SAFE Membership
In addition to free access to the SAFE Award submission process, SAFE Membership offers an attractive array of benefits to any size of organisation, spanning many sectors.

One of the key drivers for many organisations is the provision of access to downloadable template policies and documents that allow our members to quickly create appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures, dramatically reducing the time it takes to create robust and workable rules and guidance for their organisations.

The SAFE Award

The SAFE Award is a process available to all SAFE Members with provision of a self-audit tool that has been designed to help test your organisation's safeguarding arrangements. The process includes an expert review upon submission and members who attain the SAFE Award are issued with a certificate recognising excellence in safeguarding and are invited to use the SAFEcic logo in their publicity.

Many SAFE Award accredited organisations display their certificates in reception areas which are highly visible to visitors and in many cases are viewed as a significant differentiator.

Newsletter Sign-Up
If your colleagues wish to receive this newsletter they can join our database here.

Training Schedule
Our latest training schedule is listed below. Feel free to share this email with your colleagues and they too can join our newsletter database.

Live Zoom Training with SAFEcic experts
Working Together - View available dates
Managing Professional Boundaries - View available dates
Effective Safeguarding Record Keeping - View available dates
Single Central Record (SCR). Managing, Reviewing and Updating - View available dates

Blended Learning; self-paced online courses plus live Zoom training session with SAFEcic experts
Combined Adult and Child Safeguarding for Designated Leads and Deputies - View available dates
Standard Child and Adult Safeguarding - View available dates
Safeguarding for Trustees - Ensuring Compliance - View available dates
Safer Recruitment Training - View available dates
Managing and Leading on International Safeguarding - View available dates

Online Training Courses
SAFEcic provides a range of online training courses available to users on a 24 x 7 x 365 basis.

Face to Face Training and Safeguarding Audit Services
SAFEcic is also accepting many more bookings for its face to face safeguarding training and audit services.

Free Resources
SAFEcic Free Resource Hubs by Setting
Other Free Safeguarding Resources

Safeguarding News Round Up October2026

Legislation
1. Domestic abusers to be marked and tracked in boost to victims' safety. Read more...
2. Domestic abusers face eviction as survivors gain housing rights. Read more...

Inquiries, Reviews, Audits, Research, Plans, Consultations and Responses and Actions
Persistent themes in safeguarding reviews. Read more...

Regulatory Bodies

Ofsted
Ofsted to pilot new Independent Complaints Review service. Read more...

Office for Product Safety and Standards
OPSS has issued a safety alert for certain baby sleeping bags because of the risk of overheating and suffocation. Read more...

Care Quality Commission
Help CQC to develop new guidance on what good dementia care looks like. Read more...

Charity Commision
Care home and charitable trust charged following deaths of wheelchair-bound residents. Read more...

Ofcom and all Online Safety
New Ofcom Research Reinforces the Need for Open Conversations Around Online Gaming. Read more...

Worthy of Note
1. More enriching activities for hundreds of thousands of children. Read more...
2. Statement from Bishop of Sheffield following the retrial of Chris Brain. Read more...
3. National call to recruit more foster carers launched at Number 10. Read more...
4. New, easier way to share your online basic DBS check result. Read more...
5. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has launched the third series of its podcast, DBS Discussions: Safeguarding in Focus, with all 6 episodes available to listen to from Monday 26th October. Read more...

Reason to Remain Vigilant in all Aspects of Safeguarding
1. Man jailed for attempted false imprisonment, trespass with intent to commit a sexual offence and actual bodily harm in Sussex, and child sex offences in Hampshire. Read more...
2. Man from Bury St Edmunds jailed for multiple child sex offences. Read more...
3. 'Lord of Fraud' Hugh Rodley admits child sexual abuse offences. Read more...
4. Fraudster who stole a vulnerable pensioner's bank card is jailed. Read more...

Finally

New website launched for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Read more...

Thank you for reading this newsletter and for your continued support. If there is anything safeguarding related that we can assist with please don't hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards
The SAFEcic Team