I’m a children’s author (Yorkshire) of books that teach children about the world around them. I was recently invited to speak at the Bradford Libraries Rhyme Challenge Awards, where I met The Mayor, Councillor Abid Hussain who very kindly congratulated me on my Yorkshire Women of Achievement in Education Award. Councillor Hussain, also recommended that I contact his office to look at the possibility of encouraging children in the Bradford area. My work has taken me all over the UK and United Arab Emirates, encouraging children with my books and poetry initiative.

**Safeguarding Children**

After conducting research into resources available from the preventative side of educating young children, I was very disappointed and concerned at the distinct lack of resources. This resulted in me writing a children’s picture rhyming book with audio (read along) aimed at ages 5-8. Here is the website [www.sharesomesecrets.com](http://www.sharesomesecrets.com). This is now in the NSPCC library. I donated 100 books to the NSPCC which they have been using in their schools service, and are very grateful. The story is being animated by Sheffield Hallam University students and will be made available as a free resource online for children, parents, carers, teachers, professionals and anybody connected with looking after young children. This is being launched on the 19th October at Sheffield Hallam University with the NSPCC.

I am aware that it is Bradford Safeguarding Week in October, and wondered if there was anything that I could do to help in short and longer term?

**Conference**

I’m also organising an event at The Royal Armouries in Leeds, in collaboration with David Niven, on the 1st February 2018, which is set to highlight the importance and effectiveness of utilising creative resources to help educate our young vulnerable children. The event is to be entitled 'Creative Resources Safeguarding Primary Children.

The event will run from 9.30-4.00pm at the Royal Armouries. Current speakers include Jon Brown, Head of Impact and Development, NSPCC, David Niven, Chair of Tameside and Bradford Children’s Safeguarding Boards, Ruth Allen CEO of British Association of Social Workers, Anne Fine, OBE, FRSL Author, Jim Gamble QPM , former CEO of Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, Anne Marie Christian, Safeguarding Expert and myself. Other speakers and panelists are currently being approached.

**'The conference is set to highlight the importance and effectiveness of utilising resources that are currently available in the field of safeguarding. After conducting research it is apparent that we need to concentrate on these to help our young, vulnerable children. There appears to be more resources available to help 'pick up the pieces', but not enough preventative measures are available and in place. We wanted a conference that can help highlight, educate and inform public sector organisations, charities and private organisations, where resources can be found, and our speakers highlight the importance and effectiveness of these.'**

Christina Gabbitas

Author, Poet, Storyteller & Voiceover

[www.poemsandpictures.co.uk](http://www.poemsandpictures.co.uk)

[www.triangulartrev.com](http://www.triangulartrev.com)

[www.felicityfly.co.uk](http://www.felicityfly.co.uk)

[www.sharesomesecrets.com](http://www.sharesomesecrets.com) - Endorsed by NSPCC & Barnardo’s

[www.childrensreadingfestivals.com](http://www.childrensreadingfestivals.com)

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Winner of Yorkshire Women of Achievement Education 2016

Winner of Dame Beryl Bainbridge First Time Author Award 2015

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