

Safeguarding Newsletter

August 2020

Welcome to the August 2020 Regional Safeguarding Newsletter



Policy Updates

The updated Safeguarding Policy and the Model Safeguarding Policies for Churches are now online on the Methodist Church website. They can be found here: [Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church 2020](#)

Please note in particular the amendments list that is included in the front of the policy - this will help you track down the new sections. Churches should take care to use the updated version of the Model Safeguarding Policies when updating their own policies.

This issue contains:

- Policy Updates
- Resources
- Safer Recruitment
- Training Update
- Useful Contacts

Reminder: the Annual Data Returns are due at the end of August - contact Ruth at neregsafe.office@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns

Resources

Safeguarding Posters: From the week commencing 10th August, Circuit Superintendents should start to receive copies of printed Safeguarding posters for display in local churches. There are two types of Poster, one with helpline numbers and contact details, another with policy information. There are also different forms of each of these for Methodist Churches and for LEPs. Each Superintendent will receive enough copies to display one of each poster in each local church. If additional copies are required, they can be copied and printed locally.

Protect Young Eyes: The [Protect Young Eyes](#) website aims to defend children from online dangers and also educate parents/families/teachers etc. about online safety. The website has an alphabetical list of the most popular platforms for social media, gaming, photo and video Apps. There is a full explanation of each platform, identifying any risks to children and giving a 'bottom line' regarding the safety of use. The website also includes presentations and free webinars to help educate all users in online safety.

Online Safety at Home: The final activity pack for parents and carers from Think U Know has now been made available and can be accessed [here](#). Think U Know have also produced some useful guidelines for parents/carers around viral online scares, which can be found [here](#).

Safer Recruitment

As churches begin to re-open after the lockdown, and people take on new roles at the start of the Connexional year, it is worth remembering that anyone taking on a new role must be recruited in line with the Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

This guidance can be found [here](#)

Methodist Church Website

[Covid-19 Guidance](#)

It is worth checking this page frequently as it is being updated regularly with new resources and the best new advice.

Useful Contacts

Regional Safeguarding Officer:

Carolyn Godfrey
07534 346374
newcastle.darlington
@dso.methodist.org.uk

Chair of Regional Safeguarding Group:

Mark Braithwaite
07771 771360
markbraithwaite
@btinternet.com

Regional Safeguarding Administrator:

Ruth Godfrey
07903 710759
neregsafe.office
@gmail.com

Training Update

Many of you have been enquiring about when the Creating Safer Space Foundation and Advanced Module training will be able to restart, and about whether or not we have any plans to begin delivering this training online.

There is work being done on adapting both the Foundation and Advanced Module training material into a form that can be delivered online. This is not intended to replace the face-to-face sessions, but to run alongside them and allow individuals a choice about which type of training they would prefer to attend.

The Safeguarding Committee have also agreed the following revised timescale for completion of safeguarding training:

- Safeguarding training to be refreshed every four years (at the appropriate level)
- Local Preachers and Worship Leaders to complete the Advanced training by August 2021
- All those in appropriate roles to have completed safeguarding training within six months of starting in the role.
- All those who have had their training expire during the Covid-19 safety measures will need to complete the appropriate refresher training within three months of the district returning to face-to-face training.

Did the Safeguarding Committee agree to the current Foundation Module being delivered online? No, the Safeguarding Committee agreed to the development of a modified online Foundation Module - designed to be delivered online.

We have a plan to deliver the Foundation Module, can we do it now? No, we need to make adjustments to the current material to ensure it is accessible to all and that the training delivery is consistent. We also need to make sure that all trainers have the support they need to adapt to this new learning forum.

Some of our churches are now open for socially distanced worship, can we start delivering training again? No, the current format for training uses discussion groups, which we can't currently facilitate under the restrictions. This will be kept under review and the District Safeguarding Group should be able to provide a steer on when local circumstances mean that you are ready to return to face-to-face training.

All information contained in this newsletter was correct at the time of writing. Because of the rapidly changing nature of official guidance, however, many of the web pages and resources mentioned are being updated frequently. It is therefore worth checking regularly for new information.