

# Safeguarding Newsletter

December 2019



Welcome to the December 2019 issue of the Regional Safeguarding Newsletter



## Safeguarding Policy:

The latest version has been approved and is now on the website. A summary of changes at the front of the document should help locate new items. Particular items worth noting include:

- The updated information on record storage can be found on page 76 of updated policy document:  
[www.methodist.org.uk/media/15539/safeguarding-policies-procedures-and-guidance-for-the-methodist-church-october-2019.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/15539/safeguarding-policies-procedures-and-guidance-for-the-methodist-church-october-2019.pdf)
- The Model Church & Circuit Policies have been amended after a consultation with a group of Circuit and Church Safeguarding Officers.
- It is the responsibility of each Church Council and Circuit Meeting to appoint a Church or Circuit Safeguarding Officer - there should be no gaps in this crucial provision. It is **not** appropriate for the minister to fill any gap,
- Ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within the church lies with the Church Council and Circuit Meeting as the trustee bodies.

For comments on or suggested amendments to the policy, please contact Alice Heard [hearda@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:hearda@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## Trustees:

There are a variety of recently updated safeguarding resources for trustees available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

There will also be a new reporting process in the Methodist Church for Charity Commission notifications in the next few months.

## This issue contains:

- Safeguarding Policy Update
- Resources for Trustees
- IICSA Update
- Event Risk Assessment
- DBS Applications Advice
- Renewing Training
- Recognition of CofE Training
- Useful Contacts

## IICSA

Thank you to all those who have responded to requests and provided us with information.

The statement has now been submitted to the Inquiry and the hearings will take place over two weeks in March 2020.

## Renewing Training

The requirement to re-new training every four years will only apply to the highest level of safeguarding training undertaken by any individual. If the highest level of training is Foundation Module then a repeat of this module will be necessary after four years.

The 2016 Conference decided that the frequency of undertaking Creating Safer Space training should change from five to four years from September 2017 in order to make sure that training content can keep pace with changes in legislation and safeguarding practices.

## 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

### Acting Regional Safeguarding Administrator:

Ruth Godfrey  
neregsafe.office  
@gmail.com

## Event Risk Assessments

### Local Church:

For events with church groups off the premises, adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event must be given to the church safeguarding officer BEFORE agreeing any event or off-site activity. Notification of the event should be given to the church council secretary. If the activity is unusual or high risk the church safeguarding officer should contact the circuit safeguarding officer.

For an event risk assessment pro forma see:

[www.darlingtonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/safeguarding.html](http://www.darlingtonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/safeguarding.html)

### Circuit:

It is essential that circuit events that involve children or vulnerable adults do not slip through the net because they are not owned by one church. Notification of Circuit events must be given to the district safeguarding officer BEFORE final agreement with the event organiser. This will ensure that all permissions, risk assessments and good practice guidelines are in place.



## Recognition of Church of England Training

The Methodist Church recognises the Church of England Foundation Module (previously called C1) as equivalent and qualifying training to the Foundation Module. Those who have undertaken the Church of England course will have satisfied attendance requirements for the Methodist Church.



## DBS Applications

DDC have highlighted the most common mistakes made on DBS forms. Please take a few moments to have a look at this webpage: <https://www.ddc.uk.net/company/dbs-news-june-2018/>

Superintendents are able to access email notifications for the DBS certificates issued within the circuits by calling DDC on 0116 260 3055. They can also designate someone at Circuit level to receive these emails, if preferred.

DBS certificate due to expire? A reminder is sent to the minister one month before their DBS expires to remind them to complete a new application.