

Safeguarding Newsletter

June 2020



Welcome to the June 2020 Regional Safeguarding Newsletter: Safeguarding during the Covid-19 shutdown



DBS Update

DBS Exemptions

As you may be aware, Methodist Church House has been closed since 19th March 2020. If any DBS exemptions were sent in the post, please can these be sent electronically to safeguarding@methodistchurch.org.uk so that they can be dealt with.

How to remove a Document Checker (verifier) on DDC

1. Click on the tab 'document checkers' - you will need to search the name of the document checker by surname.
2. The name of the document checker should appear with details such as name, username, email address, telephone and role.
3. At the bottom of the page there should be a tick box and a box next to that with a dropdown menu. You'll need to click on the dropdown menu and select delete. Next to the name of the document checker there should be a tick box to be marked and this will allow you to delete the named individual.
4. Once you have selected the individual(s) to be removed it will request confirmation of this and the individual will be removed.

Update from DDC

An update on Criminal Record Checks during COVID-19 is available on the DDC website at <https://online.ddc.uk.net/news/113>

Domestic Abuse

As you may have seen from the media, the National Domestic Violence Hotline has been inundated and therefore many cannot access the hotline and receive the support they need.

We have been advised that another option is to contact a more local domestic abuse service. They can then check the national database to see if any refuge accommodation is available throughout the UK. Councils have been allocated extra funding for victims of domestic abuse, so they are obliged to rehouse victims even if this means putting them in a hotel (assuming there are some still open). Another point of call would therefore be the local emergency housing department.

This issue contains:

- DBS Update
- Domestic Abuse: Local Services
- Sexual Harassment Guidance
- Online Communication Guidance
- Social Media Guidance
- Online Safety Resources
- Children and Families Practice Toolkit
- Dial-a-Prayer
- Useful Contacts

Sexual Harassment

A new document has been produced with information and guidance around sexual harassment.

More information can be found here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/sexual-harassment/>
There is also a short video and a link to download the document.

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

Resources

Online Communication Guidelines for Leaders working with Young People: [Available here](#)

Methodist Church Social Media Guidelines: [Available here](#)

We have produced, with help from other districts, a set of five documents which can be adapted and used as templates by those working online with children and young people. The five documents include: an online consent form, an online contact log, online guidelines for leaders, online guidelines for young people, and a risk assessment for online communication.

As the above guidance states, consent forms must be used for online activities, such as holiday clubs. These documents may provide a useful starting point for making sure your work complies with the guidelines.

If you would like a copy of these documents, please email Ruth at: neregsafe.office@gmail.com

Online Safety Resources for Parents

Thinkuknow, the national online safety education programme from CEOP, has produced the following fact sheets to help parents keep their children safe online:

For primary age children: [Available here](#)

For secondary age children: [Available here](#)

Online safety at home activity packs: [Available here](#)

A Parent's Guide to Omegle: [Available here](#)

(Omegle is a social networking site where users are connected at random in order to chat via video, text or audio)

Children and Families Practice Toolkit

This new toolkit is designed to help managers and practitioners easily find information, evidence-based resources and tools to help them in their roles. The toolkit is [available here](#)

Dial-a-Prayer

A new free Dial-a-Prayer service is available, and may be especially useful for those in your districts who do not have access to the internet. Details can be found [here](#)

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.