

# Safeguarding Newsletter

November 2020

## Welcome to the November 2020 Regional Safeguarding Newsletter



### Data Returns

Thank you to all those who have sent in their annual data returns and the additional information that was requested. We are currently processing all the information that has been sent in. If your circuit still has information outstanding, please could you get in touch with Ruth (neregsafe.office@gmail.com) to discuss the situation.

### This issue contains:

- Data Returns
- Reminders
- Training
- ThinkuKnow Resources
- Useful Contacts

### Reminders

**Online Activities:** As you review safeguarding in your circuit (for example, as you're updating your safeguarding policies) you must remember to take account of any online activities, and your circuit's online presence

**Document Templates for Online Activities:** A set of documents to support online work (including a risk assessment template) have been produced in the region and have been distributed to circuits now on two occasions. If you do not have a copy please contact your Circuit Administrator, Circuit Safeguarding Officer or Superintendent. If you are unable to find a copy, please contact Ruth.

**Using Zoom with Children:** According to the terms and conditions of Zoom, children under 16 cannot create a Zoom account. A parent or guardian may, however, permit the child to use that parent or guardian's account with their supervision. This needs to be considered when planning activities with young people.

**Contact Details:** Please could you make sure to let Ruth know if there are any changes of role or updates to contact details or safeguarding contact details in your circuit. For example, if a church appoints a new Safeguarding Officer.

**Covid-19:** The Methodist Church Covid-19 guidance is available [here](#), and is worth checking frequently as it is being updated regularly with new resources and the best new advice. There is also a section of the website titled '[Safeguarding Considerations](#)' which is worth keeping an eye on as this addresses issues specifically related to safeguarding.

**Safer Recruitment:** As churches begin to reopen after the lockdown, and people take on new roles, it is worth remembering that anyone taking on a new role must be recruited in line with the Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

## ThinkuKnow: Online Safety

There are a range of online safety toolkits available from ThinkuKnow. These can be downloaded from their website, [here](#).

There have also produced a range of other resources which you may find helpful. These are available [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 Safe- guarding Group:

Mark Braithwaite  
07771 771360  
markbraithwaite  
@btinternet.com

### Regional Safeguarding Administrator:

Ruth Godfrey  
07903 710759  
neregsafe.office  
@gmail.com

## Training

While we understand that many of you are keen to begin Foundation and Advanced Module training again, we still do not have a firm timetable for when we can expect training to restart. As soon as we do, we will let you know.

### Changes to Training Delivery:

The Safeguarding Committee met in July and had a significant discussion about training and how training can be delivered in the current situation. There is a lot of work currently going on in the Connexion in order to prepare for these changes.

The following are the proposed changes to the delivery of safeguarding training:

**Foundation Module (Online Version):** The Safeguarding Committee have approved the development of a facilitated online version of the Foundation Module. This means that the Foundation Module will take the form of a 'virtual classroom', i.e. training on Zoom. Further details of how this will work in this region will be shared when the material is finalised and the regional role-out details have been confirmed.

**Advanced Module (Online Version):** The Safeguarding Committee have approved the development of a 'blended' learning approach to the Advanced Module. This will combine online learning modules, hosted on the Theology X website, and conclude with a facilitated 90 min Zoom session. The facilitated Zoom session will be led by the regional safeguarding trainers.

These versions of the Foundation and Advanced modules are currently being developed by the Connexion. It is hoped that, while face-to-face training will still take place locally (when possible) to train those who cannot access online training, the bulk of future training will be done online.

### Train the Trainer Training:

Some sessions are also being planned to train those who will be delivering the new training, so that they are equipped to deliver the updated material. We will update you once a plan has been finalised to roll these sessions out across the region. We appreciate your patience on this matter.

---

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.