



Safeguarding Newsletter

Newcastle District and Darlington District

Welcome to our August Newsletter. This is the place to find the latest information about safeguarding in the region.

1. Updating your Church and Circuit Safeguarding Policies

Autumn church council meetings are often when Church and Circuit policies are reviewed, so here are some tips.

Renewing your policy

- Make sure you are using the latest versions, which you can find on the safeguarding section of the district websites
- If you are making any changes to it beyond adding in names, send a copy to Carolyn or Rachel to look over
- If you are running or setting up a new project, get in touch and we can support you to adapt the policy to fit your context

When you renew the policy, don't forget to check that you've got the right contact details for Carolyn Godfrey and Rachel Bourne!



GodfreyC@methodistchurch.org.uk



BourneR@methodistchurch.org.uk

2. Getting the right kind of DBS Check

There are different kinds of DBSs, and it's important to get the right kind, but we know it can be confusing!

Have a look here at our handy list of example role descriptions with information about the level of DBS and training required. It's also on the district website.



If in doubt, get in touch with Rachel or Carolyn.

Activity which carries a higher level of risk is called 'regulated activity'. Roles which involve this need a higher level of check- a 'barred list check'. **What counts as regulated activity changes on 1st September- you can read about it here.** This means that who needs this higher level of check will change. It mainly impacts people who volunteer with under 18s. Look at the new guidance and your roles descriptions to see who now needs the extra check.

3. Safeguarding Training dates

Here are some dates for online Advanced and Foundation training.

Foundation Training

Haven't done it before?

Zoom session on
Monday 12th October,
6.30pm-9.30pm. Book
[here](#).



Need to re do it?
E-learning refresher
package you can do
any time. Start [here](#).

Speak to your Circuit Safeguarding
Officer to ask about in-person options.

Advanced Training

Online training

We have 15 dates for
online Advanced Module
training in 2026/2027!
Book [here](#)



Online training

We are running 5 in person Advanced
modules across the Darlington and
Newcastle Districts in 2026/2027.
Details will be on the website soon!

4. 'Cause everytime we touch I get... permission!

Church life can involve physical contact with people, for example shaking hands or hugging during the peace. This is important for lots of people, but for some people it is very uncomfortable or stressful. We don't need to stop having physical contact, we just need to ask first, and respect each others boundaries.

Don't forget...

- We all have different boundaries around what level of physical contact we are comfortable with. We are all different!
- **Always ask permission before touching someone, every time.**
- It's not rude to say no to touch
- Contact Carolyn or Rachel, or speak to someone you trust, if you are worried or uncomfortable about touch in church

There is a poster and a leaflet to help you to start a conversation in your church about touch. Have a look on the website, or click [here](#),



"I wanted to attend a local church, but they hugged everyone at the door. I haven't been back."

Check out the safeguarding resources on the District websites! We've put together some guides and templates to help you with safer recruitment, risk assessments, making a safeguarding notice board, and more! Scan here



Contact the Regional Safeguarding Team

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