



Safeguarding Newsletter

Newcastle District and Darlington District

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

1. Webinars: Every Story Matters and Mental Health Awareness

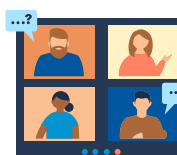
Catch up on the Webinars from our Regional Safeguarding Conference held in January, and sign up for the next Connexional Webinar about Mental Health and Suicide Awareness.



EVERY STORY MATTERS

We ran four webinars in January where we thought about what it means to be justice-seeking, and inclusive, and how safeguarding is an integral part of this calling

Scan the QR Code, or look on the Sheffield District Website to watch the four webinars.



Mental Health and Suicide Awareness; Tuesday 15th July 11 am - 12.30 pm

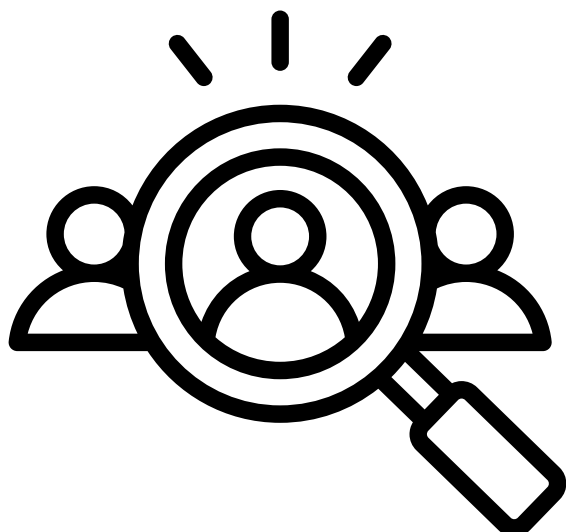
The Connexional Safeguarding Team are running a webinar about how we can best support people in our churches experiencing mental health problems or trauma and how we can reduce the risk of suicide through raising awareness.

Scan the QR code, or visit the Methodist Website to [book a place](#).



2. Safer Recruitment- demisterfied!

Based on the safeguarding cases in our region, we know that one of the biggest things that churches, projects, and circuits can do to keep people safe is make sure safer recruitment is followed. We know it's complicated- so here are some things that might help.



Have a look at the [Volunteer Recruitment Record](#), which is a check list taking you through the process. Fill one out for each volunteer. There are also other documents such as Role Outline Examples, and Safer Recruitment FAQ.

You can find these and more on the Safer Recruitment section of the Darlington Methodist District Website



3. Safeguarding in the News- Apology for Mother and Baby Homes

The Methodist Church used to run homes to support single mothers, but some women experienced harsh conditions, neglect and abuse. The Church has now formally apologised to anyone who has been hurt or abused in any of the Mother and Baby Homes that it was responsible for in the past. Scan the QR Code or visit the Methodist Website to read the full apology.

Julie's Story

Julie shared her experiences of forced adoption before the Church apologised. She explains what an apology from the church would mean to her. Scan the QR code, or visit the Methodist Website to watch the video.

Content Note: this film contains themes of forced adoption and psychological abuse.



"We deeply regret the pain and trauma caused by our actions and the systemic failures that allowed such injustice to occur. To those who were affected, we offer our sincerest apologies."

If you have been affected in any way through experiences related to any Home, and would like to speak with someone, please contact Carolyn Godfrey (details below). If you wish to remain anonymous this will be respected.



4. New Ways of Seeing: Re-interpreting Annunciation by Eric Gill

The Survivor's Group have advised the church to reinstate a painting by Eric Gill, an artist who abused, to the Methodist Modern Art Collection (MMAC), but with an explanation of the artist's past. They have worked with curators to retell the story.

The Survivors Group have written powerful reflections and responses which are now part of the MMAC Webpage page on this painting, and are co-curating a exhibition. This collaboration even featured in the Guardian!

Scan the QR Code to read all about this co-creation project between the MMAC and the Survivors Group, or visit the Methodist website.



"As survivors, we saw the Gill painting as an opportunity to change this narrative. Instead of hiding or selling it, we wanted to use the artwork to start conversations about abuse, acknowledge the victims, confront historical abuse, and discuss its intersections with faith." -Sarah

If you would like support, contact Carolyn Godfrey (details below), or visit the Support for Survivors section of the Methodist website.



Contact the Regional Safeguarding Team

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

Rachel Bourne - 07903710759 -
neregsafe.office@gmail.com

