

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING TEAM
FOR CHURCHES AND CIRCUITS

November 2020

To our Circuit and Church Safeguarding officers, Safeguarding Trainers, Ministers and all others, greetings from the District Safeguarding Team (DST).

On November 7th the DST met with Circuit Safeguarding officers on Zoom and it was a good opportunity to see and share with those who play such an important role with others in our Circuits keeping our churches and our church community safe.

Below is a brief round up of the safeguarding updates which were passed on at that meeting.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

The latest version of the policy August 2020 is available online.

Updates to the policy are expected every 6 months. Going forward there will be a specific consultation period for District Safeguarding officers prior to submission of the policy to Safeguarding Committee. Sue Ioannou is a representative on a small group of DSO's across the Connexion who are involved in the consultation process.

Anyone who may be interested in making any contributions and/or wishes to offer any feedback in relation to the policy can make a submission via Sue at any time during the year. Any submissions for the next version/update however need to be with Sue by November 20th.

SAFER RECRUITMENT POLICY

Drafting has continued on the new policy and it is about to begin the consultation period shortly. As soon as the new policy is available, we shall circulate details of this across the District.

In the meantime, please note that the confidential declaration forms including have all been updated in line with changes to Standing Orders agreed at Conference. These are now dated as August 2020 so please use these new forms going forward. The link to the new forms is below

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/recruitment-dbspvg-forms-etc/forms/confidential-safeguarding-declarations/>

DBS CHECKS AND RENEWALS

Circuit Safeguarding officers and those responsible for the oversight of DBS checks within circuits are reminded of the need to continue to ensure DBS checks are happening and re-checks are being undertaken as they come up for renewal.

Thank you to all those who have and continue to work hard in the circuits undertaking and renewing checks and circuits are reminded that we are still able to verify documents remotely but applicants must be willing to produce their documents at a later date.

A particular plea was made for circuits to ensure that circuit records of DBS checks are up to date. From an overview of the DDC system there appears to be more activity in relation to this in some circuits. It is difficult to know if this is an accurate reflection of what is required but Circuit Safeguarding officers along with those responsible for DBS checks are asked to monitor this periodically within their Circuit and be confident that record keeping and checks are up to date.

DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES.

A much-awaited revised policy and procedure is now out for consultation. The Christian charity Restored (who support victims of domestic abuse and help churches to tackle domestic abuse) and Women's Aid have been involved in appraising the document.

The Methodist Church will be holding its first Domestic Abuse Webinar on Tuesday 24th November 10.00 am to 11.30 am.

There are some prominent speakers lined up including Mandy Marshall, Co-Founder and previous Co-Director of the domestic abuse charity Restored (now the Director for Gender Justice for the Anglican Communion) and Dr Lesley Orr, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh.

In addition, there will be contributions from domestic abuse survivors, and both the Revd Helen Cameron, Chair of Northampton District, and the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, will be participating.

If you wish to join the webinar click on the link to find details on how to book a place.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/domestic-abuse-webinar-tuesday-24-november-2020/>

POSTERS

A reminder that these are now available from your Superintendents if you haven't already received those for your church. Additional copies for printing are available on the safeguarding page of the Methodist Church website.

The posters cover both policy commitments in relation to safeguarding and contacts needed by those seeking help. They have been designed to be easily visible to a wide range of audiences with the intention that they might become the focus of safeguarding material in each church, give a clear message of our commitment to supporting those who need help and a clear signal to those who might wish to cause harm.

TRAINING UPDATE

In relation to the 2020 Foundation module (which replaces both the 2016 Foundation module and the Refresher Foundation module), training guidance is available which now requires all Circuit Safeguarding trainers to attend a Training for Trainers briefing in respect of face to face delivery. These are currently taking place in the Northampton District and by the end of this week approximately 50 trainers will be trained to deliver face to face training. However, the advice at the present time is that face to face training is unlikely to be delivered until the spring 2021 at the earliest and for some churches it is anticipated that this will not be possible until later in 2021.

Circuit Training officers who have not attended one of the 4 sessions which have been held this month and who are wishing to continue with the role of a Foundation module trainer are encouraged to contact the DSO's on

safeguarding@northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk

and signal their wish to undertake the training. We shall then endeavour to set up a further briefing. Attendance at one of these sessions is now a requirement of the Connexion for continuing as a trainer.

In respect of the development of online Foundation training, a handful of our Northampton safeguarding trainers were part of the pilot which ended in mid-October, and the revised online Foundation 2020 module, along with an online Training for Trainers briefing is to be available from late November.

As a District we are reviewing the Foundation Training strategy, with a view to deciding how best to deliver the online package, and to consider the benefits and drawbacks as to whether we take a Circuit and /or District wide approach to the roll out of the online courses. We are aware that the online delivery requires different skills to face to face delivery and not every trainer will be confident in an online environment nor particularly want to deliver training this way.

There is a requirement for any trainer who is delivering online to have attended the trainer briefings for face to face delivery as well as the online delivery briefings as the two courses do differ slightly. We aim to begin rolling out the Training the Trainers online briefing as soon as we have the materials, which realistically will be December.

CREATING SAFER SPACES ADVANCED MODULE

Work has already started on developing an online version of the Advanced Module. This will comprise of individual online learning, in advance of attending a 1.5 hour zoom meeting. This course is likely to be piloted from mid-January and ready for delivery in April.

Further information will follow about this in the new year.

NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS WEEK 2020

Safeguarding Adults Webinar – Tuesday, November 17th at 11am

During this week you are invited to join a one-hour webinar, led by Christine Kennedy and Grahame Snelling from the Connexional Safeguarding Team, which will explore a number of key safeguarding adult concerns that, according to national statistics, have become far more prevalent during the COVID-19 19 pandemic, especially under lockdown conditions. These include domestic abuse, neglect and financial abuse. This webinar will build on the Foundation and Advanced training we already deliver, to ensure that our wider church safeguarding community is more aware of current trends and therefore better placed to respond when we recognise a concern.

The webinar will be of interest to Safeguarding Committee members, DSOs and DSG members as well as circuit and local church safeguarding officers.

To book your place, please register by Tuesday November 10th. To register: send your name and email details to: safeguarding@methodistchurch.org.uk

National Safeguarding Adults week is organised by the Anne Craft Trust. Their website contains useful information, downloads and details of events during that week and is worth a look.

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/safeguarding-adults-week-2020-key-themes-and-areas-of-focus/>

IICSA HEARING ON RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

The Investigation Report in relation to the Church of England and Church of Wales is now available.

IICSA report:

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/document/anglican-church-safeguarding-church-england-and-church-wales-investigation-report>

The DSO's in Northampton will shortly be circulating a briefing we have given for the wider gathering of DSO's with some suggested areas for consideration and reflection in response to the report.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have all of necessity needed to engage with social media over the course of this year. For some of us that has been an exciting online journey, for others that has been a challenge.

We are aware that the use of zoom technology has transformed our lives and want to remind everyone that children under 16 need active supervision on zoom and the invitation needs to go to the adult account. The zoom T&C are soon to be upgraded to include this change. We are actively encouraging our young people to engage with 3Generate this month which is via the Zoom platform.

These District resources are being made available more widely and will be available on the Connexional website in due course.

<https://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/digital-resources/>

For those of you who have young people who may be using TikTok, you might want to watch the Panorama programme Is TikTok safe on iPlayer.

AND FINALLY

as always please do not hesitate to contact us if you have queries in relation to any of the above, and for advice and reporting in relation to safeguarding concerns.

With our best wishes

Gill Crippen, District Safeguarding Team Leader
Sue Ioannou, District Safeguarding Officer

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