



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

1. CRB / Barring regime update

At a meeting with CRB in July, they confirmed that the date for Royal Assent to the new Protection of Freedoms Bill has been set back to May 2012. We will still aim to have the finalised versions of Recruiting Safely policy available in time for Methodist Conference approval during the summer of 2012. Meanwhile, please follow existing policy regarding CRB checks.

2. Circuit and Church Safeguarding Co-Ordinators – District Conference

This will take place on Saturday 28th January, 2011, so put it in your diary.

3. Methodist Past Cases Review

The Anglican church carried out a past cases review and gained a lot of insight into good practice in Safeguarding from looking at how issues were handled in the past. Conference approved a similar process to be carried out now in the Methodist church.

This will be piloted initially in Leeds and Wales.

4. Methodist safeguarding training programme – Creating Safer Space.

The Foundation Module was launched at Methodist Church House in June and I was there and Conference approved that FM will start from September. This module provides basic safeguarding training for those working with vulnerable adults as well as children and young people. There will be two Modules now – the Foundation Module and a Leadership Module, making up the Creating Safer Space training.

Everyone on the core list for training must complete either the FM or (previously) Module A. The deadline is September 2012 – otherwise they should be stepped down from their responsibilities until this requirement has been met.

We are holding an orientation evening for trainers in circuits on Thursday 22nd September, 7 – 9 pm and the Safeguarding Group will help circuits to run the new course as necessary, and put on training centrally

The Leadership Module is well under way and due out by the first week of September for a 6-week consultation period with safeguarding coordinators, district safeguarding groups, training officers and District chairs.

5. Who is now on the Core List, since Conference approved Foundation Module?

Core List - Required Attendance

- ◆ Presbyters with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- ◆ Deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- ◆ Pre-ordination students and probationers
- ◆ Lay employees & Volunteer Workers with pastoral responsibility
- ◆ Pastoral Visitors
- ◆ Anyone working with 0 – 18 year olds in the name of the church
- ◆ Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (e.g. luncheon club for the housebound)
- ◆ Church stewards
- ◆ Circuit stewards
- ◆ Local preachers
- ◆ Worship leaders
- ◆ Those training for local preaching or worship leading
- ◆ Church and circuit safeguarding representatives
- ◆ Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are 0-18 year olds or vulnerable adults in the group.
- ◆ District staff especially policy committee members, complaints and discipline, mediators
- ◆ Core teaching staff at Methodist Church Training Institutions
- ◆ Connexional staff with direct safeguarding links e.g. children and youth workers

Warmly invited but not mandatory

- ◆ Evangelism/mission enablers
- ◆ Leaders of other organisations, working with 0-18yr olds or vulnerable adults,
 - who use church premises
- ◆ Remaining Choir/music group/drama leaders

- ◆ Any other group leaders within the church, who may have adults within their particular group who are vulnerable.
- ◆ Property stewards and other keyholders
- ◆ Caretakers
- ◆ Church/circuit meeting secretaries
- ◆ Church/circuit/district administrators
- ◆ Remaining District and Connexional staff
- ◆ Remaining teaching staff at Methodist Church Training Institution

NOTES:

1. People in the above roles who have received safeguarding training in other roles (eg as a teacher or police officer) still need to attend. The training is specific to the church context. In the same way, such a person would NOT be exempt from education/police training, because they have done the church training. Their attendance is also valuable because of the expertise they can share with other trainees.
2. Property stewards/keyholders/caretakers. This covers a multitude of activities. Where these people have direct contact with vulnerable groups, it may be decided locally by the Church Council that they should attend. They are listed here in the second group to avoid unduly including people who have no apparent link at all with safeguarding.
3. Church and circuit stewards are included on the core list because of their important role in church life, and particularly their responsibilities in responding to adults who may be vulnerable, who might attend any church service on an ad hoc basis to access support. Where age or infirmity suggests that an exemption is needed, this should be the decision of the Church Council or Circuit Meeting.

6. District Safeguarding Group Co-Ordinator

I will be stepping down from leadership of this group, when a paid (10 hour a week) co-ordinator is appointed. I will continue to be a member of the group.

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