



The Methodist Church

Safeguarding in Lincolnshire District

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District Safeguarding Newsletter

No 2 23/24



This newsletter has a lot of local and Connexional information in it:

Page 2 – Safeguarding arrangements Christmas and New Year 2023;

Page 2 – Safeguarding Training 23/24;

Page 2 – EDI Training face to face – requests for circuits to host;

Page 3 – Safer Working Practices – children and young people;

Page 3 – District Training – Mental Health sessions'

Page 4 – District Implementation of Theology of Safeguarding and response to survivors;

Page 5 – Meetings for CHURCH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS 2024;

Page 5 – 10 tips for making our churches dementia friendly;

Page 5 – Building risk assessment form;

Page 6 – Changes to volunteer forms and confidential declarations (self-declarations);

Page 6/7 – CHANGES TO FILTERING FOR OFFENDERS – DBS and spent convictions;

Page 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 – Research;

Page 11 and 12 – Safeguarding in the news.

Safeguarding arrangements throughout Christmas and New Year 2023

Safeguarding support will continue throughout this period BUT from December 9th 2023 until December 31st 2023, I will be available only on MOBILE - 07758 239286 - AND EMAIL – safeguarding@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk

All meetings will continue as needed on zoom. Many are already booked during this period.

A message on my home number will remind people during this time.

District Safeguarding Training

The new advanced courses have now all taken place for 2023.

Dates already planned for 2024 are as follows:

Online gathered session (following individual study) – Monday 5th February, 7pm

In person at Trinity Methodist Church, Immingham – Saturday 17th February, 10am – 2pm

(Book via Alison at pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk or 01522 370126

New dates will be planned both on-line and face-to-face throughout 2024 and if anyone would like to host a session, then do let us know.

Foundation training should be being rolled out via local Circuits so if you are due, please contact your local Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

EDI training – face to face. CALLING CIRCUITS TO HOST!

The District is now offering this training across the District and dates will be sorted as soon as possible.

However, if any Circuit would like to host one of these events, get in touch and we can co-ordinate dates.

Safer Working Practices

The Methodist church safeguarding team have now produced two new leaflets adapted from the Safer Working Practice in the wider policy for churches to use:

[Safer Working Practices with Children and Young People](#)

[Safer Working Practices with Adults](#)

Training in Mental Health awareness for churches 2024

I have recently undertaken training run by Sanctuary, which I am going to roll out for the District.

It involves a number of individual sessions on line on different topics relating to how we as churches can offer sanctuary to people living with mental health issues.

Each session will have chance for discussions and there will be related course handbooks and materials for us to use. People can attend all or just some of the sessions to suit interest.

The dates will be:

Monday 22nd January 7pm – What is mental health?

Monday 29th January 7pm – What is Mental illness?

Monday 12th February 7pm – Dealing with Stigma;

Monday 19th February 7pm – Recovery and how we can help;

Monday 26th February 7pm – Companionship and care giving;

Monday 11th March 7pm – Self care

All on zoom – Zoom codes will be sent nearer the time.

Registrations will be via Alison in the new year.

2024 District Implementation of: Theology of Safeguarding report; The Reflect and Respond survivor materials.



People will be aware of both of the above significant developments within the Methodist church over recent years. We, as a District, have introduced both of them via safeguarding sessions, but now we need to begin to use them, if we are not already, in our worship, bible studies and other gatherings.

To this end, some sessions have been arranged to talk through how we all might use these resources and accompanying materials throughout the life of our churches to bring them to life:

Wednesday 17th January – on zoom – 7pm looking at both resources

Tuesday 23rd January 10am – repeated session

Thursday 25th January – above session repeated- 7pm

The sessions are not mandatory but for those in any leadership role and/or who preach, lead worship, lead bible studies and house groups.

Minsters, Deacons, paid lay workers and pastoral visitors will benefit from the sessions.

Meetings for Church Safeguarding Officers

It is some time since I have met with church safeguarding officers to give opportunity to look at their increasing role and especially now to prepare them, and others, for any forthcoming Connexional audit.

In the same way we offer training now, the meetings will be held more locally to save the need for long drives and long days.

These meetings will be held throughout February. I will be in touch with your Circuit Safeguarding Officers to sort out a date and venue for your local officers.

WATCH THIS SPACE.

10 top tips for making our churches more dementia-friendly

A list of 10 top tips for making our churches more dementia friendly is now available on our [Dementia Friendly Churches \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk) webpage.

Building risk assessment form

There is a [new risk assessment form](#) for use with the church safeguarding policy template for church premises for the annual assessment by the Church Safeguarding Officer and the Property Steward.

The church premises will be assessed by the Church Safeguarding Officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children, young people and vulnerable adults and a written risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council.

This will include fire safety procedures for activities. There will still need to be a separate fire risk assessment for the building. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.

Important change to Volunteer Application forms and Confidential Declaration forms

A single, more streamlined Volunteer Application form has been created by the Connexional Safeguarding Team and is now available on the Safer Recruitment page of the Methodist Church website [here](#). All prospective volunteers must now complete this form, whether or not the role they are applying for meets the criteria for an Enhanced DBS certificate. This single form now also incorporates the Safeguarding Declaration within it along with the Privacy Notice, which also must be completed by all applicants regardless of role. Please note that this form now replaces Form A Part 1 & 2 and also any other Confidential Declaration forms you may have been using, including:

CSD/1 'Safeguarding Declaration for applicants with substantial access to vulnerable groups'

CSD/2 'Safeguarding self-declaration for office holders without substantial contact with vulnerable groups'

and SD/4 'Safeguarding self-declaration for members of church bodies'

The single exception to this is SD/3 Safeguarding self-declaration for Methodist Council members, which has been replaced by 'Standing Order 010 Declaration Form for Methodist Council members' available [here](#).

Barrier to employment lifted for thousands of ex-offenders

Source: **Gov.uk**

Date: **30 October 2023**

[Barrier to employment lifted for thousands of ex-offenders - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

As a result, the DBS have updated a number of their guidance pages:

Operational changes to support new legislation

30.10.2023: The Disclosure and Barring Service has implemented operational changes based on [new legislation](#) that came into force on 28 October 2023 and has updated [rehabilitation periods](#) guidance to reflect these changes. [Operational changes to support new legislation](#)

Filtering Scenario Guidance

Date: 28.10.2023

Changes to the filtering rules that came in to force on October 28 2023, the following page explains the potential impact on DBS customers [Filtering scenario guidance](#)

Alignment

Updates to the Filtering rules, via the draft Police Act 1997 (Criminal Record Certificates: Relevant Matter) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2023, will mean that unspent convictions and cautions will appear on checks even if they have previously been filtered off.

This means that in some limited circumstances, a Standard or Enhanced check may now show more information than before.

Where additional information does appear on a DBS check, the employer should consider the information when making a suitability decision. The employer can discuss the circumstances of the unspent conviction with the employee, consider any background information provided on the check, and take past performance into consideration.

Filtering Scenarios

Date: 28.10.2023

There are 3 Scenario examples that you may find helpful [Filtering scenarios - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/filtering-scenarios)

Filtering rules for DBS certificates

Updated 28.10.2023: The rules explaining when a caution or conviction will be filtered from a DBS certificate (criminal records check) have been updated in line with legislation changes [Filtering rules for criminal record check certificates](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/filtering-rules-for-criminal-record-check-certificates)

Rehabilitation periods

Updated 28.10.2023: The table of rehabilitation periods for the most common sentences and disposals and example scenarios been updated to reflect legislative changes that have come into force from 28 October 2023.

Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (ROA), eligible convictions or cautions become 'spent' after a specified period of time, known as the 'rehabilitation period'.

The rehabilitation periods depend on:

- the sentence given or disposal administered as a result of a conviction
- the age of the individual on the date they are convicted

The table shows the rehabilitation periods for the most common sentences and disposals. [Rehabilitation periods](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rehabilitation-periods)

DBS filtering guide

Updated 28 October 2023: Filtering identifies and removes protected convictions and cautions so that they are not disclosed on a DBS certificate. The guidance has been updated to reflect legislative changes that have come into action from 28 October 2023. [DBS filtering guidance](#)

Contents:

- introduction
- when did the law change in relation to information being filtered?
- updating your recruitment application forms in line with changes to the filtering rules
- what PNC information will be disclosed automatically on a Standard or Enhanced DBS certificate?
- what other types of information are disclosed on Enhanced DBS certificates?
- can an employer ask an individual to declare details of all convictions and cautions?
- completion of section e field 55 on the DBS application form
- positions where filtering does not apply
- external guidance

The above updates have been added to the [Latest Guidance from the DBS \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

Domestic abuse in Christian faith settings - key research findings

Source: **Chester University**

Date: **2023**

Chester University have published the key findings (in pictographic format) from their research into domestic abuse in the Christian Faith Community. [Turn the Tide Chester University research findings.pdf](#) (5 pages).

The full report is: Oakley & Wright (2023) Developing understanding and effective responses to domestic abuse in the Christian faith community.

The Power of a Genuine Apology

Source: **Global Safeguarding**

Date: **13 October 2023**

In this blogpost, Global Safeguarding look at 'what a genuine apology sounds like to someone harmed by an organisation's activities and why it is a crucial skill for leaders' and explains how 'when an organisation harms, or contributes to the harm cause to, individuals or communities, offering a genuine apology is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic move toward healing and rebuilding trust.'

Read the blogpost: [Power of a Genuine Apology: Navigating Organisational Response](#)
(globalsafeguarding.com)

Child sexual abuse disclosures

Source: **NSPCC Learning**

Date: **25 September 2023**

NSPCC Learning has published a report on child sexual abuse (CSA) disclosure ahead of the proposed mandatory reporting duty in England and Wales. The report reviews evidence around children and young people's views and experiences of disclosing CSA. A review of 43 papers and reports from international research found:

there are a variety of internal and external barriers to disclosure, including developmental factors, isolation and a lack of trusted and open relationships;

professionals need to create safe spaces for children to disclose CSA; and

ineffective or insensitive responses to a disclosure can impact on the likelihood of children and young people seeking help in the future.

The report identifies key insights to inform thinking on the proposed mandatory reporting duty and highlights gaps in current research.

Read the report: [Disclosing child sexual abuse: children and young people's experiences](#)

Handling workplace sexual harassment

Source: **Farrer & Co**

Date: **22 September 2023**

'We have written extensively about sexual harassment in the workplace. In light of the latest high profile allegations, we thought it would be useful to provide a reminder of our main guidance on responding to allegations of sexual harassment and the steps employers can take to reduce the risk.'

Read the reminder: [Handling workplace sexual harassment \(reminder\)](#)

Multi-agency safeguarding

Source: NISB

Date: 2 October 2023

The National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB) has published a thematic analysis of 33 child practice reviews in Wales in 2023. The review aims to understand reoccurring themes and any challenges in multi-agency safeguarding. Key findings include:

two thirds of Child Practice Reviews (CPR) were prompted by a child's death;

a third of CPRs involved a child that was on the Child Protection Register and/or was a looked-after child at any point in the 6 months before the event; and

common topics raised by the CPRs included increased whole-family approaches, inclusion of child's voice and health information sharing.

The review calls for regular multi-agency training to help overcome collaboration barriers and enable more proactive responses.

Read the review: [Risk, response and review: multi-agency safeguarding](#)

Verbal abuse against children

Source: The Guardian

Date: 2 October 2023

The Guardian has reported on the findings of a systematic review exploring the nature and impact of verbal abuse against children. The paper outlines characteristics of the abuse which include shouting and verbal threats. The review analysed various research studies and identified the following outcomes: emotional and mental distress; externalising symptoms including substance use; and neurobiological changes. The review calls for consistency in the way that childhood verbal abuse is defined.

Read the news story: [Shouting at children can be as damaging as physical or sexual abuse, study says](#)

Read extracts from the paper: [Childhood verbal abuse as a child maltreatment subtype: a systematic review of the current evidence](#)

Jade's Law: Victims and Prisoners Bill

Source: **Ministry of Justice**

Date: **3 October 2023**

The Ministry of Justice has published a news story announcing that the Victims and Prisoners Bill will be amended to better protect children in England and Wales. The Bill will be amended so parents who kill a partner or ex-partner with whom they have children will automatically have their parental responsibility suspended upon sentencing.

Read the news story: [Jade's Law to be introduced to better protect children](#)

Safeguarding in the News

Disclaimer: Links are provided here to news articles that may be of interest to our Safeguarding network: The Methodist Church is not responsible for content on external websites.

[Safeguarding News from SACPA October 2023](#)

Private fostering

[How 70,000 Black children were privately 'farmed' to white families | UK News | Metro News](#)

This Metro story tells the story of tens of thousands of 'Nigerian children who were privately fostered by white families in the four decades since 1955, in a controversial practice known as 'farming'.'

There is a new documentary called 'White nanny, black child', which will be on Channel 5, and looks at how this has affected nine of the children, now adults.

The article says that 'Private fostering continued into the early 2000s but it slowly came to an end after more stringent measures on safeguarding were implemented by law.'

Church of England publishes first national safeguarding standards

You may be interested to read this Church Times article about the Church of England's national safeguarding standards.

[Church of England publishes first national safeguarding standards](#)

Read the standards: [national-safeguarding-standards-and-quality-assurance-framework_sep23.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

Modern Slavery

['We lie on the floor till someone buys us': shocking allegations of UAE agencies' abuse of domestic workers | Global development | The Guardian](#)

[Revealed: allegations of abuse and captivity without pay at UAE's lucrative recruitment](#)

Data Protection and Safeguarding

[Survivors complain after breaches of confidentiality over C of E safeguarding data](#)

This Church Times article by Francis Martin looks at the impact of data breaches on survivors trust in the Church in the light of two recent C of E data breaches relating to safeguarding data and acts as a reminder to us all to be vigilant about data protection when managing safeguarding data.

Revenge porn

[‘I stood up and fought back’: how revenge porn survivor Georgia Harrison got her abuser jailed | Women | The Guardian](#)

[agencies | Women's rights and gender equality | The Guardian](#)

These articles describe how UAE agencies abuse domestic workers.

Probation failings

[Damien Bendall: Quadruple murderer put in wrong risk classification - BBC News](#)

An inquest has heard of the failure to risk assess Damien Bendall appropriately.

A key paragraph says: ‘The report said the Probation Service's handling of Bendall, after his release from prison for a previous crime, was of an "unacceptable standard" at every stage and "critical opportunities" to correct errors were missed before he murdered his victims in Killamarsh, Derbyshire.’

However, there are some who point out the fault lies with the Government and the reorganisation of the Probation service which lead to the departure of experienced staff and 'high risk' cases being assigned in inexperienced staff.

So, once again and finally, have a very blessed Christmas and may you know peace and joy in special ways. Thanks so much for everything you have done to continue to promote safeguarding and see you, if not before, in 2024.

Howard.

