



The Methodist Church

Lincolnshire District

Responding Well - District Safeguarding Policy Summary – September 2025

NB: The role of the District Safeguarding Officer (DSO) has changed to that of a Regional Officer for Safeguarding (ROS) from 1st August 2025. Any reference to DSO anymore in any policies and procedures should simply be exchanged for ROS. This does not detract from the requirements to which it refers.

The full District Safeguarding Policy and other safeguarding policies are on the District and Circuit websites and from local Church and Circuit Safeguarding Officers.

All safeguarding policies should be read alongside [Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church \(2024\)](#);

The Methodist Church is committed to the safety and protection of all, especially those who are vulnerable. Districts, Circuits and local churches are committed to ensuring policies and procedures are in place;

The District continues to adopt the term “[Responding Well](#)” in relation to its policies and procedures for safeguarding;

This policy and all related policies are now mandatory;

The District Safeguarding Group (DSG) oversees the work within the District:

The District must have a Regional Officer for Safeguarding (ROS) assigned to it – role outline in the full Policy;

Each Circuit must have at least one Circuit Safeguarding Officer;

Each Church must have a Church Safeguarding Officer;

If local churches do not have a contact, the Church Council decides who takes that role until one is found – However, Ministers must not be in a safeguarding role;

All the above roles must be safely recruited to as per Safer Recruitment Policy 2025;

All concerns should be reported as per the [Responding Well District Flowchart 2025](#) - the District Safeguarding procedure;

Each church should have displayed in a public place within the church the Connexional Safeguarding Poster, this summary, the Responding Well flowchart and other relevant safeguarding material;

Safeguarding training at Foundation and Advanced level must be undertaken by those in appropriate roles, as well as EDI and Unconscious bias training;

External use of church premises should be seen as a letting arrangements and letting forms completed and policies and DBS clearances checked for the group using the premises;

All events within church, Circuit and District life should be risk assessed;

All those who are required to have a criminal record check (DBS) will do so and ensure it is renewed every 5 years as required by the Methodist Church. On line applications only.