



The Methodist Church

Lincolnshire District

Serving locally, connecting the county

District Good practice Guidance – Pastoral visitors (PV's) and safeguarding.

Summary of Guidance - September 2021

The full guidance is available on the District website and from Church/Circuit Safeguarding Officers

The role of PV's is critical to the life of the church and good practice has come from the experience and learning of PVs themselves;

It is important that PV's are involved in all District safeguarding meetings, workshops and training;

Pastoral Visiting is done on behalf of the church – PVs are sent by and accountable to the local church;

They should be part of a team, which meets regularly;

The role is subject to safer recruitment – there are 3 role outlines for PV's to choose the one they feel most comfortable with and which determine which criminal check is needed, if any;

The role of the Pastoral Co-ordinator is important is over-seeing the work of the PV's and calling them together – ideally they might not visit themselves unless they are the Minister;

PV's should be formally commissioned in using the commissioning service for the Methodist Worship book;

If there are concerns about anyone the Responding Well flowchart 2021 should be used;

Records should be kept only of dates and times of visits – not the detail of the visit;

ID should be considered to ensure people and others know PV's are official visitors on behalf of the church;

Offering transport and lifts as a Pastoral visitor requires the appropriate car insurance cover and drivers should exercise duty of care being fit to drive and able to protect passengers and the public;

PVs who visit others in hospital or care homes may have concerns about the care being offered and should speak with the Co-ordinator;

PV's need to protect themselves by being accountable and visiting in pairs if this is required;

Offering Prayer as a PV should be by invitation and Spiritual advice referred to the Minister.

For further help, contact your Pastoral Visitors Co-ordinator or your District Safeguarding Officer.