

Sheffield Methodist District

Suggested circuit safeguarding policy

Purposes

The purposes of (*name*) Circuit's Safeguarding policy are

- to ensure its churches have a safeguarding policy in place which makes it clear what people's roles and responsibilities are in safeguarding and promoting children's welfare on their church premises
- to outline specific responsibilities the circuit leadership team and staff have in safeguarding children.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the suggested church and district's safeguarding policies and '**Safeguarding-a policy for good practice in the care of children and young people, 2003**'.

1. Connexional Statement

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community, of all ages. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people.

2. Roles and responsibilities

a. Superintendent

Ensure that all churches have safeguarding policies in place.

Churches could either adopt the suggested individual church policy (Appendix), as appropriate or use it as guidance to write their own.

Support those in pastoral charge in exercising responsibility for the implementation of Safeguarding.

Pastoral support for those who are dealing with 'cases' of allegations of abuse, managing known sex offenders etc in their church communities is vital the superintendent will either offer support or ensure support is put in place, possibly using the District Safeguarding Group, the Chair or other sources as appropriate.

With the support of the District Safeguarding Officer, the Safeguarding Group will ensure circuit staff are kept informed about policy and guidance (Appendices, 'Sharing Safeguarding information', Managing known sex offenders procedures from The Church and Sex Offenders Report).

Ensure all local preachers complete Safeguarding Form B (Appendix), before going on trial.

Ensure all circuit office holders are aware of the terms of S.O. 010: 'no person who has been convicted of or has a caution from the police concerning sexual offences

against children shall be appointed to any office, post or responsibility or engaged under any contract to which this sub-clause applies' (S.O. 010(2)(ii))

Ensure all presbyters/deacons, lay employees, children's and youth work volunteers and office holders are aware of the required safeguarding training for their roles as set out in 'Creating Safer Space', the Connexional Training Framework for Safeguarding.

Appoint a Safeguarding co-ordinator to act as a point for circulating information.

Monitor and evaluate circuit policy annually.

b. Circuit Stewards

Make sure agreed procedures are in place for circuit and ecumenical events that involve children and young people. *(See District procedures which could be adapted for circuit purposes)*

Support church councils in accessing training through Caroline Riley, 0114 249 5059, carolinerileytdoyorkshire@sheffieldmethodist.org

Be aware of the safeguarding training requirements for presbyters/deacons, lay employees, children's and youth work volunteers and office holders as set out in 'Creating Safer Space', the Connexional Training Framework for Safeguarding.

Approved by Circuit Meeting

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