

District Safeguarding Group

Taken from the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church in Britain - October 2021

1.1 Every District must have a safeguarding group (DSG) whose purpose is to assist and guide the effective implementation of the safeguarding policy across all churches and district activities. This will include supporting the District Chair in the dispensing of their safeguarding duties.

1.2 The membership should be made up of at least two members with a professional background in safeguarding such as police, probation, education, children's and/or adults' services, health and legal services. It should also include a minister with some experience of safeguarding. Good practice would additionally include at least one member with lived experience as a victim/survivor of church-based abuse to ensure that the perspectives and needs of this important group are taken into consideration. The DSO or another DSG member should offer them support as required to ensure their full participation is facilitated.

1.3 The group should meet a minimum three times a year in order to support the work of the DSO advise on policy, practice and training developments within the district.

1.4 The DSG should develop an action plan to guide its work and provide activity data (e.g. implementation of training and church safeguarding policy compliance) to demonstrate implementation and improvement plans.

1.5 The DSG should report to the District Policy Committee on an annual basis (and at other times as required) in respect of its strategic role in developing safeguarding practice and ensuring that policy and training is being implemented. This will also demonstrate how the DSG is meeting the minimum standards (see Appendix XI) set for DSGs.

There is no requirement for anyone coordinating and advising on safeguarding matters to be members of the Methodist Church. This gives scope for the most appropriate people, with relevant professional backgrounds, to be appointed especially when considering the appointment of an independent Chair of the DSG and the DSO.

