

Safeguarding Posters

The Safeguarding Posters have been designed to provide an easy and consistent means of identifying safeguarding information in every church and circuit across the Connexion. They may also be used in district offices and other premises that are part of the Methodist Church or a Local Ecumenical Partnership, which uses the Policies, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church.

Use of the Posters

The use of the posters is highly recommended, but not obligatory and provides the easiest way to comply with the requirement on churches and circuits to display the local safeguarding policy and contact details for those who can provide support.

Alternatively, the local policy document may be displayed prominently or a similar, locally designed poster. Any locally designed version should include:

- the policy commitments contained in the Policies, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church
- contact details for internal and external sources of assistance
- details of where a hard copy or digital version of the full local policy may be found.

The posters may form part of display of other relevant material.

In August 2020, there was an initial print run sent out to circuit superintendents across the Church with sufficient hard copies of the posters for every church. Any additional or replacement copies may be printed off in A4 or A3 from the online versions on this web page. Church premises may wish to display additional copies of the contacts poster in other less visible parts of the building. This will allow those using the premise to access help without being viewed by others e.g. on toilet doors or away from the main noticeboard.

Type of Poster

The Methodist Church version is for all Methodist churches other than congregations, which are part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership. It displays the policy commitments from the Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church and provides an opportunity for internal and external safeguarding contacts to be added. There is a Welsh language version of these posters.

The Local Ecumenical Partnership version is only for those churches following the Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church. This version contains the policy commitments but does not use the Methodist Church logo. It confirms that the Methodist Church safeguarding policy is being used and there is some variation in the titles to support its use in multi-denominational settings. There is a Welsh language version of these posters.

How to Add Information to the Posters

Contacts may be added in handwritten form, on sticky labels or typed onto the online versions of the posters, prior to printing.

Local Safeguarding Officer Contact Details

There are spaces to add the details of local safeguarding officers. The minimum that should be included in this box is the District Safeguarding Officer's contact details including an email address and phone number. Other details for church or circuit safeguarding officers may be added, depending on practice in the district. There is no expectation that church or circuit safeguarding officers will add personal contact details. Office phone numbers and official emails may be preferred.

Local Authority

There is a wide variety of local authority provision in terms of safeguarding contacts for reporting. Therefore, the title of this box is generic but may be used for contact details for a MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), Children & Adult Services, LADO or other local authority services available locally. Local provision may be checked with the DSO, if necessary.

Local Helplines

Completion of this box is optional but allows for the church or circuit to highlight local provision where it exists.

Location of Local Safeguarding Policy

If you are using the posters, there is no longer a requirement to pin the church or circuit policy to the noticeboard. You can note where a physical copy of the policy can be accessed nearby (e.g. in a folder) or provide a website address where a digital version can be viewed. Some people have suggested they may also add a QR code (the square of black marks often used on commercial products/train tickets), but this is not a requirement.