

Safeguarding Newsletter

Local Information

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Connexional Safeguarding

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Dates for Online Foundation Module Sessions

Day	Date	Time
Weds	09/06/21	19.00
Sat	19/06/21	10.00
Tues	06/07/21	19.00
Thurs	22/07/21	19.00

*Dates for the new Connexional
year will be out soon*

Booking:

Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/manchester-and-stockport-methodist-district-safeguarding-foundation-module-tickets-141407582887>

Events page - District website

[Forthcoming Events - Manchester and Stockport Methodist District \(mandsmethodists.org.uk\)](http://mandsmethodists.org.uk)

New Legislation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Link: [Domestic Abuse Act](#)

The Domestic Abuse Act became law in April 2021 and now includes a legal definition of domestic abuse.

- the definition incorporates abuse beyond physical violence, such as emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour, and economic abuse.
- to fall within the definition, both victim and perpetrator must be “personally connected”.
- the definition ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members.
- it is gender neutral to ensure that all victims and all types of domestic abuse are adequately captured, and no victim is excluded from protection or access to services.
- it does not extend to paid and unpaid carers, unless they are also personally connected, such as a family member.
- it defines domestic abuse as occurring where the victim and perpetrator are aged over 16; for a victim under 16, it would be dealt with as child abuse rather than domestic abuse.

Other inclusions:

- the Act clearly recognises children as victims if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.
- it extends the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- it includes a new offence of non-fatal strangulation/suffocation.
- it extends another offence to include the threat to disclose intimate images (*porn revenge*).
- it clarifies the law further in order to clamp down on claims of “rough sex gone wrong” where death or serious injury have occurred.

- it puts the domestic violence disclosure scheme, commonly known as ‘Clare’s Law’, on a statutory footing.
- domestic abuse protection orders (DAPOs) replace and reinforce previous orders, such as domestic violence protection orders (DVPO’s) and non-molestation orders.
- it places a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children, in refuges or other safe accommodation.
- it provides that all eligible homeless victims automatically have ‘priority need’ for assistance.
- it prevents perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.
- it creates a statutory presumption that victims are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.
- it clarifies the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims.
- it prohibits GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.
- it provides for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes.

Examples of coercive control in the context of faith/religion

In addition to coercive control taking place in intimate or family relationships, it could also take place in someone's wider faith community, both by other members of their faith community, by faith leaders or by others representing faith institutions. This may include, but is not limited to:

- being prevented from visiting one's place of worship or being pressured to do so against one's will.
- being prevented from praying or worshipping or being pressured or coerced to do so a certain number of times per day/week.
- being told that your God(s) hate you.

- being pressured to have sex, or to carry out particular sexual acts, which the partner did not want to do, by being told that they must comply in order to adequately practice their faith.
- using a certain interpretation of sacred texts to dictate, implicitly or explicitly, what can be worn or eaten, or where the partner may go or do.
- using sacred texts to pressure forgiveness of abuse, or to 'submit to your husband' and therefore to accept or allow certain behaviours.
- using religious texts to justify abusive or hurtful behaviour.
- using religious teachings to prevent someone leaving or separating from an abuser.
- a spouse refusing to grant a religious divorce.
- a partner forcing children to be raised in a faith the other doesn't agree to.
- a spouse threatening to marry another wife/husband.

Other useful information

News Article and podcasts

Disability and Domestic Abuse

As cases of domestic abuse rise during lockdown, people are forced to spend more time with their abusers. As Sara Cincurova explores, disabled victims can face particular challenges.

Link:
[Disability and domestic abuse: 'No-one knows what is happening behind those walls' - BBC News](#)

Blogpost

A blogpost by Charity Hamilton on 'Theology Everywhere' entitled '**Violence, Love and the Keys**'.

The subject is gender-based violence, and it touches on the case of Sarah Everard and the behaviour of some in the Methodist church.

Link:
[Violence, Love and the Keys – Theology Everywhere](#)

Posted April 2021



Podcast

The Ann Craft Trust has released a podcast on discussing domestic abuse and coercive control and how this abuse affects the physical and mental health of the whole family.



Link:

Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control - Telling Untold Stories - Safeguarding Matters - Ann Craft Trust

Posted April 2021

Leaflet

Women's Aid Response -
How to support a friend

The response is very comprehensive and offers lots of practical advice alongside signposting to other organisations and resources.

Link:

Women's Aid Response - How to support a friend



Documentary

Ian Wright: Home Truths

Footballer Ian Wright shares his own story and investigates what effect growing up in a psychologically abusive and violent home has on children in the UK

BBC iPlayer

Ian Wright: Home Truths

News Article

Domestic abuse, trauma and recovery

Mel B (*one time Spice Girl*) on Domestic Abuse, Trauma and Recovery

Mel B on domestic abuse, trauma and recovery: 'In my mind there was no way out' | Domestic violence | The Guardian

New/updated Guidance

Child Sexual Abuse in Football



In March this year the Football Association published findings from an independent review by Clive Sheldon QC into allegations of sexual abuse in football in England during the period 1970 to 2005.

The findings echo those found in other reviews, including those of religious organisations, including that the FA took too long to act and that safeguarding was not an issue taken seriously enough.

The recommendations are very similar too, and include:

- safeguarding training
- safeguarding standards
- safer recruitment processes including DBS
- support for survivors

Soon after this report was published the BBC showed a three-part documentary examining historic child abuse in youth football across England between the 1970s and the 1990s. This was very harrowing viewing indeed and reminds us that safeguarding is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

Other resources: NSPCC's Dedicated Helpline

The NSPCC have a free and confidential helpline which offers advice and support for anyone who experienced abuse in connection with football:

0800 023 2642

Link to report:

[Clive Sheldon QC's report into non-recent child sexual abuse allegations in football](#)

Documentary from BBC iPlayer

[Football's darkest secret](#)

Link:

[Keep children safe in sport
NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit | CPSU
\(thecpsu.org.uk\)](#)

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims

Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales (under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015) and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

The Home Office – updated April 2021

Modern slavery encompasses:

- > human trafficking and
- > slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour

Types of exploitation:

- > sexual exploitation
- > forced labour
- > forced criminality
- > removal of organs (*organ harvesting*)

Chapter 2

provides information about the definition of modern slavery

For more information see the UK unseen website:

Trafficking means –

- > trafficked for the purpose of ‘exploitation’
- > deception
- > physical coercion
- > psychological coercion
- > complex situations

NB

Human/people smuggling is not human trafficking

Chapter 9

relates to child victims

Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery in the UK
(unseenuk.org)

Telephone:
0303 040 2888

Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour means –

- > physical coercion
- > psychological coercion
- > complex situations

Victims of modern slavery are often vulnerable individuals, particularly when rescued from a situation of exploitation

For more information see:

Protecting children from trafficking and modern slavery



If you need help, or you think someone may be a victim of slavery or exploitation, you can call the confidential UK modern slavery helpline



08000 121 700

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

DBS updates



Disclosure &
Barring Service

Faith specific guidance on DBS checks



Link:

[Disclosure and Barring Services \(DBS\) Checks for Faith Centres - Strengthening Faith Institutions \(SFI\) \(sfitogether.org\)](https://www.sfitogether.org)

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) recently worked with Strengthening Faith Institutions (SFI) and the Charity Commission to support faith organisations, to produce guidance on DBS checks and eligibility which is tailored to different faiths.

DBS checks for working with children in places of worship (*changes*)



Link:

[DBS checks for working with children in places of worship \(changes\)](#)

Published Feb 2021

This guidance on the GOV.UK website highlights the rules for DBS checks for working with children in places of worship was issued on 19 Feb 2021.

The main activities that are likely to occur in faith settings which will make a role eligible for a DBS check when working with children are:

- teaching, training or instructing children
- care of children
- providing advice and guidance wholly or mainly to children in relation to their emotional, physical or educational wellbeing e.g. advice on staying healthy while fasting, educational advice when considering a life of faith or emotional guidance when going through difficult times in life such as bereavement (*added as regulated activity*)
- driving children
- day-to-day management of people undertaking these activities

Anyone undertaking these activities on more than 3 days in any 30-day period will be eligible for an Enhanced DBS check with a check of the Children's Barred List.

Anyone undertaking these activities overnight between 2am and 6am with contact with the children would also be eligible for an Enhanced DBS check with a check of the Children's Barred List. If someone does these activities but less often they will be eligible for an Enhanced DBS check without the Children's Barred List check.

New Leaflets from DBS on Regulated Activity with Adults and Children

The Disclosure and Barring Service has produced new leaflets relating to eligibility and other DBS services and products.

Of particular relevance are:

Updated May 2021

DBS guidance leaflets -
GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Regulated Activity with Adults
[ES573375_CCS156_CCS0318265556-1_NHS Eligibility Roles Leaflet_Adults_v2_EB.pdf](#)
(publishing.service.gov.uk)



Regulated Activity with Children

[ES573374_CCS156_CCS0318265556-1_NHS Eligibility Roles Leaflet_Children_v3_EB.pdf](#)
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

All this DBS guidance can be found on the Connexional website at:

[Guidance from the Disclosure and Barring Service \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

Other resources

The expect respect healthy relationships toolkit

Link:
[Expect
Respect -
Woman's Aid](#)

women's aid
until women & children are safe

Women's Aid, 2021

This toolkit contains resources to help prevent domestic abuse and educate children on healthy relationships, and is aimed at those working with children aged 4 and 18-years-old.

It consists of activities covering several themes, including:

- challenging assumptions about gender, power and equality
- the difference between abusive and non-abusive relationships
- promoting the message that abuse is not acceptable
- understanding consent online and offline.

Children's media use and attitudes

Link:
[Children and parents: media use
and attitudes report 2020/21
\(PDF\)](#)



Ofcom, April 2021

Ofcom has published a report looking at the media use and attitudes of children and young people aged 5-15.

Findings show that in 2020:

- nearly all children aged 5-15 went online
- just over half of 12-15s have had some form of negative online experience, most commonly being contacted by someone they did not know who wanted to be their friend
- awareness of reporting functions was high (70% of children aged 12-15), but only 14% of 12-15s have ever reported content.

Child sexual abuse survivors

IICSA, May 2021

Links:

[Child sexual abuse survivors speak of lifelong effects of abuse | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#)

[truth-project-experiences-shared-june-2018.pdf \(truthproject.org.uk\)](#)

This includes reports of abuse within the context of the church



The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, in partnership with the Truth Project, has shared experiences of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

The experiences, which will be used to inform the inquiry's final report, in October this year.

- it includes accounts of: barriers to speaking out lifelong effects of the abuse
- authority figures turning a blind eye

being ignored, threatened and encouraged to stay silent.

Safeguarding in faith communities

IICSA, 2021

Links:

[Inquiry's Anglican Church investigation leads to Church reform and new law | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#)

[Preventing abuse in positions of trust | NSPCC Learning](#)



The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) reports that investigations into the Anglican Church has led to the Church committing to reform including:

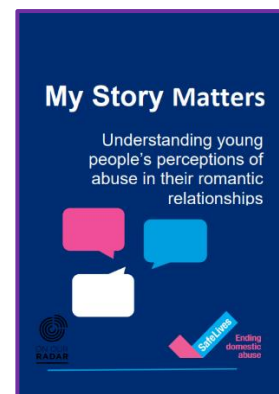
- the introduction of diocesan safeguarding officers
- the creation of an independent safeguarding board
- a new law to add religious leaders to the definition of positions of trust.

Report from the charity SafeLives and the group 'On our Radar'

2021

Link:

[My Story Matters - Understanding young people's perceptions of abuse in their romantic relationships.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](https://safelives.org.uk)



The report explores young people's perceptions of abuse in their romantic relationship.

The findings include:

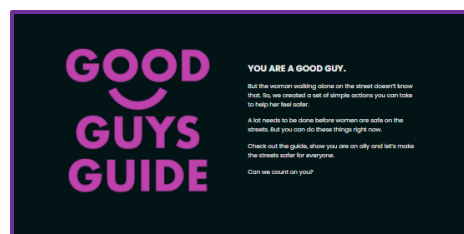
- using language that resonates with young people is critical
- young people are more inclined to use language such as “toxic” or “manipulative” or “controlling” to describe a relationship than anything like “domestic abuse” or “intimate partner violence” which is something they perceive as happening to older people and not them
- young people want support in understanding where the line is between healthy and unhealthy relationships in their peer relationships
- friends and family were young people's main sources of support followed by teachers and youth

Resource developed by the charity Solace and M&C Saatchi

2021

Link:

[home - Good Guys Guide](#)



Solace says that the Good Guys Guide:

“seeks to help men realise that even “good guys” can be perceived as a threat, and that they have a role to play in helping women feel more comfortable when out on the streets.”

The guide offers a set of seven quick and easy to follow rules that men can adopt when out and about in order to help women feel safe, acknowledging that it's not a woman's responsibility to “take precautions to avoid being harassed”.

Although not everyone may agree with all the points it is an innovative and positive response to the conversations about gender-based violence that we within the Church can be having with our young men.

Methodist Updates

Webinars

Just a reminder that you access this page to both book on forthcoming webinars and see those previously held.

At present it holds:

Link:

Webinars

(methodist.org.uk)

> a 1.5-hour webinar on Domestic Abuse, held 24/11/20

Aimed at promoting awareness of domestic abuse and looking at how as a church we can begin to tackle this and respond appropriately to victims/survivors.

> a series of 3 webinars looking at tackling bullying within the Methodist Church

Webinar 1: Tackling Bullying, Changing Culture, Enabling Positive Relationships

Webinar 2: Reconciling communities: living well with difference

You can register [here](#) for this webinar

Webinar 3: Addressing Bullying through Justice, Dignity and Solidarity

To be held: 17 June - 11:00am – 12.30pm

Positive Working Together

Link: [Introducing Positive Working Together \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

There is a section on the website about Positive Working Together which encourages us to reflect on the importance of the way in which we engage and interact with each other within the life of the church and the wider community. There are a range of resources here which you may find useful. There are also some train the trainer sessions available.

There is also a reconciliation and mediation project being run in partnership with Place for Hope aimed at managing disagreement or conflict in your community between individuals or groups of people.

Safeguarding Standing Orders Simplified

Link: [Safeguarding Standing Orders Simplified \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

For some people the style in which the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church are written can make them difficult to understand.

Six leaflets that seek to provide a simpler explanation of the standing orders relating to safeguarding are now available for downloading or printing.

These leaflets do not change the standing orders but have used simpler language to explain key areas of the Church's safeguarding legislation.

They are intended to be given to anyone who becomes involved in a safeguarding matter and provide an explanation of how the safeguarding process works in the Methodist Church.

The leaflets are:

- Safeguarding Standing Orders – A Simplified Guide
- Safeguarding Standing Orders - The Safeguarding Committee
- Safeguarding Standing Orders - The Church and Public Protection
- Safeguarding Standing Orders - Duty to Obtain Disclosures
- Safeguarding Standing Orders - Safeguarding and Suspensions
- Safeguarding Standing Orders - Safeguarding and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act

Safeguarding Section of the Connexional website

Link: [Latest News \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

There is now a "latest news" section on the Safeguarding section of the Connexional website.

The first news item, dated 01/06/21, is an update from Tim Carter, Director of Safeguarding, discussing how the Methodist Church is preparing for the publications of ICSA reports.

It also contains the information relating to the last changes made with regard to Safeguarding Training requirements in April 2021.

DBS Training from DDC

We can now access DBS training from DDC ,
so if there is anyone who may find this
useful please contact Helen Bolton by 30th
June 2021.

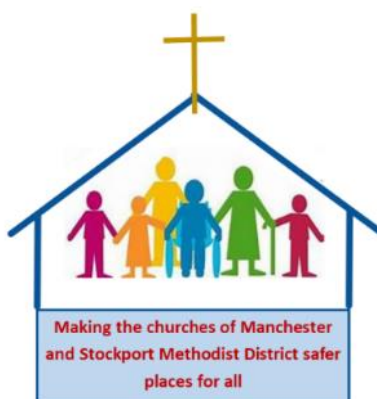
07498 800427
mands@dso.methodist.org.uk

Dementia Friendly Churches Working Group

Please email resources to [Kate Little](mailto:kate.little@methodist.org.uk)

The above group are hoping to be able to improve the quality and quantity of resources on the Connexional website and have asked whether anyone may able to share links to any useful documents, websites or webinars on the following topics:

- Dementia awareness
 - Dementia-friendly churches
 - Safeguarding people with memory loss
 - Pastoral visits to people with dementia
 - Worship for people with dementia
- Support for Carers



**If you have any suggestions for content of future Safeguarding Updates
please let Helen know**