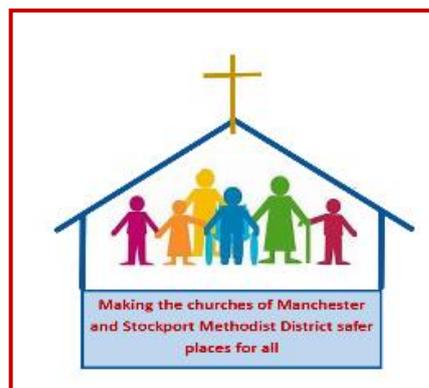


Safeguarding Newsletter

In this issue:

Page	Content
2	Prevent in our communities
6	Safeguarding Sunday 2022
7	Connexional Updates
9	Safeguarding Updates
10	Webinars
11	We still need you.....



District Safeguarding Officer

Helen Bolton
07498 800427
mands@dso.methodist.org.uk

Connexional Safeguarding Casework Supervisor- North West

Christine Kennedy
07817 424504
kennedyc@methodistchurch.org.uk

District website

[Manchester & Stockport District Safeguarding
\(mandsmethodists.org.uk\)](https://mandsmethodists.org.uk)



Prevent in our communities



So what's it all about?

Prevent is part of the Government's national counter-terrorism strategy, which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism before they get involved in criminal activity. It is designed to stop terrorism regardless of ideology or cause.

There are many factors that can make someone vulnerable to radicalisation. They can apply to any age, social class, religion, ethnic or educational background.

It is a 4-stage process

1. *Pre-radical* - the person joins or identifies with a group or organisation
2. *Self-identify* - the person believes and accepts the beliefs and views held by the group or organisation
3. *Indoctrination* - the person is groomed by the group or organisation pulling them further down the pathway
4. *Terrorism* - the person becomes involved in committing terrorist acts

Signs and Vulnerabilities

- Being influenced/ controlled by a group
- An obsessive or angry for change/something to be done
- Personal crisis
- Spending more time online, sharing extreme views on social media
- Need for belonging/ identity/ meaning
- Looking to blame others
- Desire for status/ need to dominate
- Mental health issues

Behaviours might include:

- a change in behaviour
- changing their circle of friends
- isolating themselves from family and friends
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- accessing extremist material online
- using extremist or hate terms to exclude others or incite violence
- writing or creating artwork promoting violent extremist messages

What is extremism?

It is holding ideas or beliefs that most people consider unreasonable or unacceptable. For example, it may take the form of religious extremism

So what is religious extremism?

For some people their faith is so important to them that they feel justified in acting in extreme ways in order to try and make others share the same beliefs as them.

This can be a result of:

- their interpretation of their religious holy book
- the belief that they will be rewarded for it in this life or an afterlife
- being influenced by others
- they believe that they are doing it for God

What is radicalisation?

It is the process through which someone comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. For example, it may take the form of extreme far right radicalisation.

And what is Extreme Far Right Radicalisation?

This occurs where groups or individuals who plan or commit serious criminal activity are motivated by a political or ideological viewpoint such as extreme nationalism, Neo-Nazism, anti-Semitism.

It is predicted that a mixture of political distrust, the impact of the pandemic and the associated growth in conspiracy and anti-authority beliefs, and the cost-of-living crisis has created fertile ground for the growth of right-wing ideas.

For the first time, in the year April 2020 to March 2021, extreme right-wing ideology has overtaken Islamism as the biggest cause of referrals to the Government's anti-radicalisation programme.

There is not much difference between Islamist extremism and Extreme Right wing. The mind-set is the same, one uses racism to despise groups and the other uses religion to despise groups.

W. Joseph, Intervention Provider

Do

- be aware of any undesirable influences online and offline.
- keep an eye out for any changes big or small that are taking place more often
- have a that conversation with the person you're worried about, even when it's hard to know where to start or what to say.
- trust your instincts and if you're worried seek help and advice.
- speak to other people you trust – like schools, church or circuit safeguarding officer or minister about your concerns.
- act early and report, so the person can be supported to move away from extremism.

Don't

- keep your worries to yourself.
- think you can't make a difference – you can by acting early and sharing your concerns.
- leave things. If you're concerned seek help.
- be afraid to contact specialist police officers in confidence



Revised *Prevent* Duty Guidance:
for England and Wales

How do we report?

[Report terrorist or extremist content online – Action Counters Terrorism \(campaign.gov.uk\)](https://www.actioncountersterrorism.org.uk)

Telephone 0800 789321



Want to see a video?



[BRAVE | A Film To Build Resilience
Against Violence And Extremism -
ConnectFutures](#)

**Build
Resilience
Against
Violence &
Extremism**

More Information

**Prevent duty guidance - Statutory
guidance**

Last updated 1 April 2021

**Home Office Factsheet: Prevent and
Channel – 2021**

**Counter Terrorism Policing: What We Do -
Prevent**

**Safeguarding Against Harmful
Radicalisation – Prevent**

PowerPoint Presentation

ConnectFutures: works with young people, practitioners and communities to increase knowledge, resilience and confidence in preventing extremism and serious violence, challenging hate, and promoting equality and justice.

[Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK
\(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[FACTSHEET: Prevent and Channel - 2021
- Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

[Prevent | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)



Bolton & Rochdale
Methodist Church Sa

[ConnectFutures - ConnectFutures](#)



Safeguarding Sunday 2022

Safeguarding Sunday
20th November 2022



Having a specific Sunday every year that turn the spotlight on safeguarding helps churches and circuits to:

- reinforce that protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message
- create an opportunity to show our communities that we take this responsibility seriously
- celebrate and thank all our volunteers who support in this most vital aspect of church life.

And so we would like to encourage as many of our churches to use their regular Sunday worship to explore together what safer places look like, and to thank all those working so hard to make our churches safer for all.

Whether you can give just five minutes, or can devote your whole service there are lots of free resources available at

[Safeguarding Sunday resource pack \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](https://www.thirtyoneeight.org)

including:

- Films and animations
- Prayers and liturgy
- Preaching notes
- Childrens activity sheets
- Hymns and songs

*'Speak out on behalf of
the voiceless, and for the
rights of all who are
vulnerable.'*

Proverbs 31:8

How do we explore this?

Have a look at [Safeguarding Sunday \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](https://www.thirtyoneeight.org)

Register

Download your free resource pack

Join in

Connexional Updates

Policy Updates

DSG Standards and Criteria

The DSG Standards and Criteria developed by a group of DSG Chairs have been approved by the Safeguarding Committee and Methodist Council.

These are now incorporated into the main safeguarding policy document in appendix XI and are available online

[Policies and guidance \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

Level of DBS checks for Trustees

Previous practice guidance published in 2018 recommended that ‘a minimum of three checks should always be undertaken: the safeguarding lead person and two stewards. For the other members, the meeting can decide on what checks are appropriate. It would not normally be deemed necessary to require checks from all the trustees.

This minimum is no longer stated in the policy as it is for local churches to decide how many checks are necessary based on their individual circumstances. It still remains the case that it is not necessary or proportionate to check all trustees.

Updated Forms

Church Safeguarding Concern Form

There is an updated Church Safeguarding Concern form template on the website.

[Safeguarding Concern Forms \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

This can be adapted for local use.

Model Church Safeguarding Policy

This was updated in February 2022 and can be found on the website

[Policies and guidance \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

Exemption from DBS and training

All ministers and local preachers are required to have an appropriate DBS check, provided that they are capable of preaching or carrying out pastoral ministry. Where a minister or local preacher is no longer able to carry out ministry, they may apply for an exemption by completing the appropriate exemption form.

New forms have been produced for both ministers and local preachers which now also include exemption from training, include information sheets and allow for re-instatement.

[DBS Exemption forms for ministers and local preachers \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

IICSA Update

Following the publication of the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) into Child Protection within Religious Organisations and Settings plans are under way to develop a system of internal audit of all Methodists Districts by the Safeguarding Committee.

These audits are likely to commence in the autumn of this year in pilot Districts, and Bolton & Rochdale will be audited within the proposed four yearly cycle.

The Methodist Church's response can be found here

[Recommendations - Child protection in religious organisations and settings | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#)

[mc22-52-audit-of-safeguarding-practice-jb_jrh-revised.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

[The Methodist Church's response to the recommendations of the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse](#)

The Inclusive Methodist Church

The Methodist Church is committed to 'Justice, Dignity and Solidarity' and believe that all people are uniquely made in the image of God, and we aim to live this out in the Church and in our communities.

Resources to help in this work which is a crucial part of the Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ can now be found at:



[The Inclusive Methodist Church](#)

Safeguarding Updates

Free mental health courses online

This training can help our volunteers to better understand the needs of people with mental health problems, to be able to support those experiencing mental ill health and lead to gaining an accredited mental health certificate.

The five free courses available are:

- 1) Counselling Skills
- 2) Self-Harm and Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- 3) Awareness of Mental Health Problems
- 4) Children and Young People's Mental Health
- 5) Behaviours that Challenge in Children

Book

[Sexual abuse within the church: assessment, intervention, and prevention](#)

Chris Rush Burkey, Michael C. Braswell and John T. Whitehead, Abingdon: Routledge, 2022

This book provides insight into sex offenders within the church and explores a range of potential solutions and interventions. Chapters include:

- sex crimes and sex offenders in the church
- church leaders and parishioners as predators
- warning signs
- maintaining church security
- leadership prevention strategies
- the church's response to sex crime
- legal issues for the church
- also includes cases studies and discussion questions.

Webinars

All webinars on the Methodist website can be found at: [Webinars \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/webinars) and include:

'Speaking Truth: Voices of Survivors of Child Abuse' Webinar Series

'The Church's Response to Survivors: From Stumbling Block to Stepping Stone' Webinar Series

A series of webinars from the Methodist Church around [bullying](#)

[Domestic abuse](#)

[Making Our Churches More Dementia-Friendly](#)

Other Webinars:

[SCIE Webinar: Managing volunteers in faith-based organisations](#)

Wednesday 20 April 2022 12:30 – 14:00

Leading on from safer recruitment, once our volunteers are in role, it's important we manage them effectively to ensure they operate safely and in line with safeguarding policy. Often, it is only with the support of volunteers that we are able to fully deliver our services. They can bring such diverse levels of experience and skill; effective management can also enable us to retain and develop good volunteers. Read more [here](#).

[Register in advance for this webinar](#)

We still need you

Would you consider joining our District Safeguarding Group?

We are currently looking for:

New members from across the District

A new secretary to the group

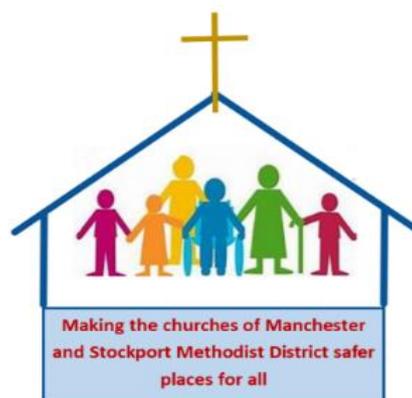
This role requires no safeguarding experience, although you must be able to support the administration of the group e.g. by sending out the agenda and associated papers and taking minutes

Would you like to help us to help us drive forward safeguarding activity within the District?

Would you like to help influence the direction of travel?

Could you volunteer to support this very important District activity?

Then we would really love to hear from you!!



*What is Bolton & Rochdale
Methodist District
Safeguarding Group (DSG)?*

The DSG is the group set up to support and oversee the safeguarding activity across the District and is accountable to the District Synod.

*What commitment is
required?*

The group usually meets 3 times a year in the evening, although you may sometimes be invited to support short, time limited task and finish groups.

You may have experience of safeguarding within the church, perhaps as a safeguarding officer or trainer or an experienced minister.

What experience do I need?

We are particularly looking for people who bring specific experience, such as those who work with domestic abuse services or with survivors, or who themselves are survivors to help us ensure that everyone's voice is heard

For more information
please contact **Helen** on

07498 800427

Or

mands@dso.methodist.org.uk

For more information see:

[F572524.docx \(live.com\)](#)

[Manchester & Stockport DSG Member Role description](#)

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