



# Safeguarding Update

## for Superintendents, Circuit and Church Safeguarding Officers and Trainers – March 2024

### 1. Policy updates

- 1.1** The Safer Recruitment Policy was updated in January 2024 (although remains dated Nov 23 when you click on the link).

[safer recruitment policy final draft-jan 2024.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

However, there has been no further change in content since the new guidance on Confidential Declarations in November 2023. The only amendment this time has been to correct pagination.

- 1.2** A leaflet outlining good practice and systems when working with children and young people has been added to the website and should be given to everyone who works with children and young people. This leaflet should be reviewed annually.

[safer working practices cyp leaflet final-jan 2024.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

There is also a similar leaflet for those working with vulnerable adults. This, too, should be reviewed annually.

[safer working practices with adults leaflet-jan 2024.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

### 2. Reminder

Please can I ask that all who initiate DBSs on the DDC system pay attention to the drop-down box and ensure they click the right box for the role being undertaken.



If you are registering someone as a church or circuit safeguarding officer, or as a local preacher or worship leader you will find these specifically identified. For further information please see the attached list of roles agreed with DDC.

### 3. Safeguarding news and updates

#### 3.1

## NSPCC Learning

NSPCC Learning has published a new page bringing together online safety information for people working or volunteering with children. New and updated content includes:

- preventing online harm and abuse
- responding to online abuse
- and social media
- online communities
- safeguarding

[Online safety | Guidance and resources | NSPCC Learning](#)

#### 3.2

NSPCC Learning has also published a blog discussing the language we use to talk about people who sexually abuse children, as part of its Why Language Matters series.

[Why the term 'paedophile' can be problematic and should be used with caution | NSPCC Learning](#)

The blog looks at terminology, addressing the context in which abuse takes place, and the risks of obscuring the complexity of child sexual abuse through language.

Key points:

- The label paedophilia has a specific meaning and not all child sexual abuse conforms to this definition.
- Recognising and responding to child sexual abuse requires a good understanding of different types of sexually abusive behaviour, the contexts and conditions in which abuse takes place and the signs that a child might be experiencing sexual abuse.
- To take effective preventative action all the factors which enable child sexual abuse to take place need to be addressed.

#### 3.3

NSPCC briefing highlighting the pressures young people face in relation to their sexuality and gender identity. Some young people who are LGBTQ+ will have supportive experiences as they explore their sexuality and gender identity. However, some young people face pressures or challenges.

## NSPCC

[challenges-sexuality-gender-identity-helplines-insight-briefing.pdf \(nspcc.org.uk\)](#)

Key findings:

- some children felt dismissed by adults in their lives
- some faced a range of pressures to change or suppress who they are
- some felt pressured to conform to gender stereotypes
- some described instances of emotional abuse in the family home.

Key themes include:

- coming out to the family
- conversion practices
- pressures in school
- pressure to choose a label
- young people struggling with guilt and self-acceptance

**3.4** The Home Office has announced plans to make mandatory reporting a legal requirement in England. Everyone involved in regulated activity relating to children in England will be legally required to report to report if they know a child is being sexually abused.



[Tougher laws to protect children from sexual abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-laws-to-protect-children-from-sexual-abuse)

Those who fail to report child sexual abuse they are aware of face being barred from working with young people and anyone who actively protects child sexual abusers – by intentionally blocking others from reporting or covering up the crime – could go to prison for 7 years.

The new measures will be introduced as amendments at report stage of the Criminal Justice Bill in the House of Commons.

**3.5** In a recent post, SACPA (Safeguarding and Child Protection Association) identify a number of significant and repetitive themes from last year, including:



[Safeguarding in 2024: Identifying new priorities | Sacpa](https://www.sacpa.org.uk/news/safeguarding-in-2024-identifying-new-priorities)

- weaknesses in safer recruitment processes.
- poor staff induction and training.
- deficits in workforce experience, knowledge of safeguarding and safe practices and what it means to keep children safe.
- staff ratios and poor deployment.

- a failure to fulfil adequate processes that determine ongoing suitability of staff and a lack of understanding about transferable risk when children are unsafe because of adults working with them.
- weak leadership and oversight of staff performance management

They also cite the importance of recognising that these areas rarely occur in isolation stating, *“this is not just because they are interlinked, rather because they reflect a poor culture that lacks a child-centred perspective”*.

A timely reminder, should we need it, of the importance of the work we do within our churches and church communities.

**3.6** The independent review into historic child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Rochdale, was published in January and found compelling evidence of widespread organised sexual exploitation of children within Rochdale from 2004 to 2012, and failures by statutory agencies at the time to respond appropriately.



[operation-span-report-january-2024-v3.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

The damning 173-page report into Operation Span – Greater Manchester Police’s (GMP) much-criticised investigation into the grooming allegations in Rochdale identified 96 men still deemed a potential risk to children.

[Review published into Operation Span and non-recent child sexual exploitation in Rochdale - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)



The report, the result of a six-year investigation commissioned by Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, covered 2004 to 2013 and reviewed the cases of 111 children on police files during the period of Operation Span.

It found that there was evidence 74 of the children were being sexually exploited and in 48 cases there were “serious failures” to protect them

3.7 Children’s Mental Health Week took place between 5 – 11 February 2024. Attached is a link to resources to help open up conversations and may be useful to print off and put on your noticeboards.

[cmhw-24-top-tips-for-families.pdf](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/cmhw-24-top-tips-for-families.pdf)  
[\(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



3.8 The aim of this newsletter is to make sure that survivors know about the conversations taking place, the actions being set, the barriers IICSA Changemakers are trying to dismantle and how they are ensuring that survivor voice is front and centre in their work.

[1183740 survivor-newsletter---feb-2024.pdf](#)  
[\(emlfiles4.com\)](https://emlfiles4.com)



#### 4. Safeguarding Information and Webinars

4.1 The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) has published a webinar recording on childhood verbal abuse, discussing the impact of adults shouting, denigrating, and verbally threatening a child.

[Words matter: childhood verbal abuse](#)



The webinar examines definitions, prevalence and the long-term impact of verbal abuse on children.

4.2 The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health has also published a webinar recording on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The video examines

[Bullying and victimisation and the link with adverse childhood experiences – recording](#)

associations between ACEs, bullying victimisation and mental health problems in adolescence.

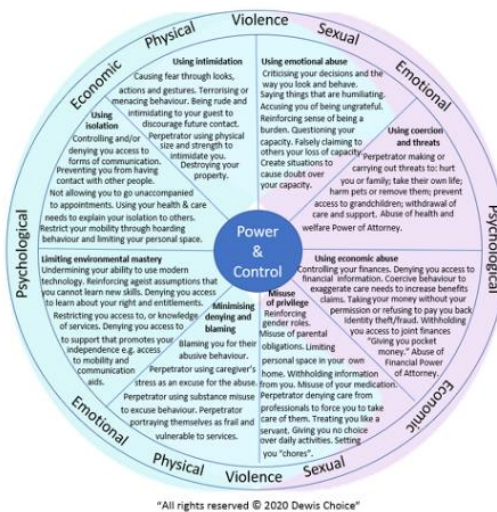
**4.3** Hidden Harms is a short animation about domestic abuse and older people, produced by Derby Council aimed to help start a conversation with an older adult.

[Hidden Harms \(with subtitles\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

**HIDDEN HARMS**  
older adults and domestic abuse



Research tells us that this is a very sensitive topic and older adults may be more reluctant to talk about problems at home due to experiential, cultural, and social factors, and this combined with ageing and subsequent care needs leaves them vulnerable to having domestic abuse overlooked. Attached is also Dewis Choice's new adapted Duluth Wheel focussing more specifically on domestic violence and abuse in later life.



[Dewis-Choice-Duluth-Wheel-1.pdf \(dewischoice.org.uk\)](#)

**4.4** These five short 'Grooming and the Church' videos are used by Queen's Theological College as part of their training programme for ministerial students and very much support our safeguarding training.

[Grooming & the Church - Lesson 1: "You can't tell the difference" \(youtube.com\)](#)



Attached is a link to the first video, from which you can access the rest, and the 5<sup>th</sup> video offers a helpful summary in 3 minutes.

**4.5** The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and the Safe Spaces project have joint-funded a strategy with the goals of helping to support survivors of

If I told  
you,  
what would  
you do?



[If I Told You, What Would You Do? - Newcastle Diocese \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org)

abuse and helping those our churches to learn how to hear survivors' stories and respond better to them.

They have also produced 7 short video reflections (each around 3 minutes long).

## 5. DBS Update

**5.1** The DBS updated the information on their website around their Partnership and Engagement team the DBS Regional Outreach Service on 11 January 2024. The page also includes information on barring referrals and the legal duty to refer.

[DBS Regional Outreach service](#)

**5.2** Read tips from the Disclosure and Barring Service on how jobseekers can stay away from Fake DBS check recruitment scams.

[Top tips for jobseekers at risk of 'fake DBS check' recruitment scams](#)

**5.3** You may also be interested to read the latest guidance to assist chief officers of police to disclose the correct information on Enhanced disclosure certificates.

[Statutory disclosure guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## 6. Other reminders

### 6.1 Training

All Advanced Module sessions and Foundation Module sessions via zoom can be found and booked at:

More dates for the Foundation Module sessions via zoom have now been added to take us to the end of July 2024.

[District Events | Bolton and Rochdale Methodist District \(barmd.org.uk\)](#)

### 6.2 For anyone delivering Safeguarding Foundation Module sessions

Please remember to forward a copy of all attendance sheets to [pa@mandsmethodists.org.uk](mailto:pa@mandsmethodists.org.uk) and [mands@dso.methodist.org.uk](mailto:mands@dso.methodist.org.uk)

Not doing so may mean we share incomplete data with the Superintendents and District Policy Committee.



### 6.3 For anyone interested in training to facilitate Safeguarding Foundation Module sessions

The next Training the Trainers event will take place over two evenings, via Zoom, and you must be able to commit to both sessions.

<b>Session one</b>	will cover delivering training, supporting participants and practical issues of which to be aware	<b>Tuesday 16th April 2024 19.00 - 21.30</b>
<b>Session two</b>	will focus on the newly developed material itself.	<b>Wednesday 17th April 2024 19.00 - 21.30</b>

To book a place on this course, or for more information, please contact Helen on **07498 800427** or [mands@dso.methodist.org.uk](mailto:mands@dso.methodist.org.uk)

Prior to participating in the training, you will need a reference from your Superintendent Minister (*or someone in a similar role if this is not possible*). Please forward this to Helen as above.

### 6.4 Access to a free online course that can be completed at your leisure



**A Trauma Sensitive Approach to Children's,  
Youth and Family Ministry**

**Presented by the Institute for Children, Youth  
and Ministry**

In this course, you will explore what is meant by the term 'trauma' as they unpack some core principles of what it means to bring a trauma sensitive approach to the way we work with children, young people and families.

It is estimated that 1 in 3 children and young people are exposed to at least one potentially traumatic event by the time that they are 18.

They also provide practical tools, strategies and approaches to help ensure we are all creating spaces that are led safely and, very importantly, that *feel safe* for every child that we are journeying with and we'll consider how we can effectively support families in our churches and communities with care experienced children.

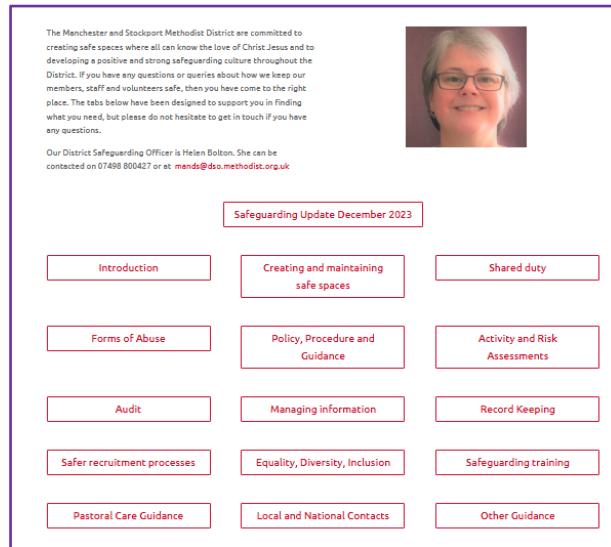
**Register here –**

**[A Trauma Sensitive Approach to Children's, Youth and Family \(thinkific.com\)](https://thinkific.com)**



## 7. Updating of resources for both districts on M&S website

Over the last few months I have been working to pull together safeguarding information that may be on different parts of the connexional website or within different policies, including some external resources too. Please take a look; I hope this will help us all now and as we move towards the new district.



These are now live on the Manchester & Stockport website at:


[Safeguarding - Manchester and Stockport Methodist District \(mandsmethodists.org.uk\)](https://www.mandsmethodists.org.uk)

I will aim to update these twice a year, to coincide with the release of the updated Connexional Safeguarding Policy.

## 8. Safeguarding in the new North West England District

<p><b>Would you consider joining the District Safeguarding Group for the new North West England District?</b></p>	<p><i>Would you like to help us to help us drive forward safeguarding activity within the new District?</i></p>
<p><b>Do you have a desire to drive up the quality of safeguarding within the churches and circuits within the new District?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you have knowledge and/or experience of safeguarding either professionally, personally or within the church?</b></p>
<p><i>Could you volunteer to support this very important District activity?</i></p>	<p><b>Then we would really love to hear from you!</b></p>
<p><i>You may have experience of safeguarding within the church, perhaps as a safeguarding officer or trainer, as a Monitoring and Support Group Member or an experienced minister.</i></p> <p><i>We are particularly looking for people who bring specific experience, such as those who work with domestic abuse services or with survivors, those who work with perpetrators or have worked in, for example, social care services, health, the police, probation or counselling services. But most of all.....</i></p>	

*Be keen and committed*

<p>Please complete an Expression of Interest form, giving the area of interest and activity that you might wish to be involved in as</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District Safeguarding Group</b></p>	 <p>Expression of Interest Form re Volunteer Op</p>
<p>Or for more information please contact Helen Bolton, District Safeguarding Officer</p> <p><b>07498 800427</b> or <a href="mailto:mands@dso.methodist.org.uk">mands@dso.methodist.org.uk</a></p>	
<div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>More Information</b></p> <p><i>Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church in Britain<sup>1</sup></i> demands that the District Chair and the District Policy Committee provide support and oversight in implementing safeguarding policies and procedures in local churches and circuits.</p> <p>The District Safeguarding Group (DSG) is the group established to deliver this support and oversight and is responsible for the strategic development of safeguarding, in line with connexional and national requirements. It is also responsible for understanding local safeguarding need and for responding to and reviewing policy and procedural queries.</p> </div>	

<p><i>As we journey through Lent to meet at the foot of the cross may I wish you all the great triumphal joy of Easter morning when we find the tomb empty and know that</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christ is risen!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>He is risen indeed!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Helen</i></p>	
---	--

**If you have anything you wish to share in future updates or anything you would like covered please contact Helen**