

Safeguarding Report to the North Kent Circuit Meeting May 2020

Dealing with safeguarding issues

During this time, please continue to report any safeguarding or wellbeing concerns in the usual manner. Your DSO (Philippa Read), church and circuit (Sue Byard) safeguarding officers and ministers remain available for support and advice.

Issues may continue to come to your attention from providing pastoral support, providing essential services (if your church falls into this category) or from communication with people online.

DBS

DBS checks are still being processed by DDC. Temporary changes have been made to the document checking process, in response to coronavirus. This means that we can continue to apply for and process checks. Information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines> Please note that the applicant must present the original versions of their documents when they first attend their employment or volunteering role.

While we are not meeting, please ensure that lists of people requiring training or DBS checks are updated.

Foundation Module Training

The Foundation Module has been completely rewritten. There is one training for both initial and refresher needs. So far three of our Circuit trainers have attended (via Zoom) the briefing to enable them to lead training in our Circuit.

Foundation Module training is essential for the following roles in the Circuit:

- Presbyters with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Pre-ordination students and probationers
- Lay employees and volunteer workers with pastoral responsibility
- Pastoral visitors
- Anyone working with children in the name of the church
- Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (eg lunch club for the housebound)
- Church stewards
- Circuit stewards
- Local preachers
- Worship leaders
- Those training for local preaching or worship leading *
- Church and circuit safeguarding officers
- Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are children or vulnerable adults in the group.
- Monitoring and Support group members (for safeguarding contracts/Covenant of Care Agreements)

Training is valid for four years after which it must be updated.

Advanced Module Training

Advanced Module training is a requirement for the following roles in the Circuit:

- Circuit Safeguarding Officer
- Church Safeguarding Officer
- All presbyters or deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry (including supernumerary ministers)
- Those who are in paid employment or a voluntary role which includes leadership within the Methodist Church, involving direct work with children, young people or vulnerable adults
- Lay persons who are appointed to exercise pastoral leadership within a local church
- Local preachers
- Worship leaders
- Those training for local preaching or worship leading *
- Those who deliver the Foundation Module
- Those in recognised roles involving pioneering, fresh expressions or evangelism
- Mentors for the Youth Participation Scheme

Training is valid for four years after which it must be updated.

The Advanced Module course booked for 4 July at Bearsted has not been cancelled yet. We await further guidance from the government and Connexion. As soon as I have a definite decision I will contact all those booked on the training. We have over 60 more people who need to attend AM training so there will be at least 3 more trainings arranged when possible.

*** Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in training**

Those training to become Local Preachers should enrol and complete the Foundation Module at the earliest opportunity after receiving a Note to Preach. Both Foundation and Advanced modules must be completed by the end of the second year of training and before their second interview on trial, whichever occurs first.

Those training to become Worship Leaders should enrol and complete the Foundation Module at the earliest opportunity after commencing training. Both Foundation and Advanced modules must be complete by the end of the second year of training and before their appointment by the Church Council, whichever occurs first.

Please be aware that Safeguarding Training is not optional. It is the individual's responsibility to make arrangements to attend when courses are offered. If you do not attend the required training you will have to resign your role.

Sue Byard
Circuit Safeguarding Officer