

## South East Safeguarding Newsletter No.3 April 2019

Dear District,

I recently attended the annual National Methodist Safeguarding Conference which was entitled 'Mental Health and Safeguarding' - a worthwhile topic on which to focus, since our church communities are ever changing and diverse.

There were two things in particular that became recurring themes throughout the conference: that good communication is invaluable, and that we (safeguarding officers/chairs/church members/ministers) need to look after ourselves, too.

So, after pondering on whether the safeguarding newsletter is an effective way to communicate with you all around the district, I thought the only way to know for certain is to write another one!

As for looking after ourselves, I benefitted immensely from sharing the company of others 'in the same boat' for a couple of days, who know exactly it's like to implement the law and policy & procedure, whilst balancing risk and human rights...alongside trying our best to maintain positive and fruitful relationships.

The next District Safeguarding Conference, open to all, is on 12th October 2019 at Horley Methodist Church. This will be a fantastic opportunity to reflect together, share experiences and consolidate our learning. Please save the date!

Thank you for your continued contributions to promoting safeguarding in our District.

*Philippa*  
District Safeguarding Officer

### DBS tips

- ◆ Lost password/account details: contact DDC direct on 0116 2603055 or [contact@ddc.uk.net](mailto:contact@ddc.uk.net)
- ◆ Lay persons access to circuit accounts: Superintendents, please email a request to Philippa
- ◆ Problems with progressing an application on the website: contact DDC, as above
- ◆ Is a DBS needed for a particular role? - refer to the Safer Recruitment Policy via the Methodist Church Website

**Book your annual Circuit Safeguarding Meeting now!**

**A time to focus on how safeguarding policy and procedure works in your local situation**

**A chance to ask questions, discuss what works well and consider how things can be improved**

**Contact Philippa to plan your meeting**

**In this edition:**

**Training**

**DBS Tips**

**Privacy Notices**

**Planning events**

### Advanced Module Training

#### CHECK:

Who needs to attend via the Safeguarding Training page of the Methodist Church Website

#### RECORD:

The number of trainees in your circuit/area & advise Philippa

#### BOOK:

A training session for 2020

#### PREPARE:

All trainees need to complete the Essential Preparation before attending the course AND should have updated their Foundation Module learning

### GDPR & Privacy Notices

Privacy notices need to be issued whenever there is a concern of a safeguarding nature, or a Safeguarding Contract is in place; the DSO should be informed of any such issues. The forms are available via the Safeguarding: Policy, Procedure & Information page of the Methodist Church Website.

### Planning church events

As the season of fetes, garden parties and picnics is upon us, church councils have a responsibility to ensure that the correct planning processes are in place, in liaison with the church safeguarding officer. There is a requirement, both in terms of the Methodist Church policy and for insurance purposes, to carry out risk assessments of events being organised by our churches, both on and off church premises. Methodist Insurance have produced a risk assessment document to assist with this process, as have The Well, for use at youth events. Also refer to Section 6 of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, which covers the various aspects of planning events in further detail.

**Please note: Event risk assessments are not the sole responsibility of the church safeguarding officer**