



Safeguarding Newsletter

Newcastle District and Darlington District

Welcome to our August Newsletter. This is the place to find the latest information about safeguarding in the region.

1. Updating your Church and Circuit Safeguarding Policies

Autumn church council meetings are often when Church and Circuit policies are reviewed, so here are some tips.

Renewing your policy

- Make sure you are using the latest versions, which you can find on the safeguarding section of the district websites
- If you are making any changes to it beyond adding in names, send a copy to Carolyn or Rachel to look over
- If you are running or setting up a new project, get in touch and we can support you to adapt the policy to fit your context

When you renew the policy, don't forget to check that you've got the right contact details for Carolyn Godfrey and Rachel Bourne!



GodfreyC@methodistchurch.org.uk



BourneR@methodistchurch.org.uk

2. Getting the right kind of DBS Check

There are different kinds of DBSs, and it's important to get the right kind, but we know it can be confusing!

We've made a handy list of example role descriptions with information about the level of DBS and training required. Ask your Circuit Safeguarding Officer for a copy, or look on the It's on the on the safeguarding section of the district websites.



If in doubt, get in touch with Rachel or Carolyn.

Activity which carries a higher level of risk is called 'regulated activity'. Roles which involve this need a higher level of check- a 'barred list check'. **What counts as regulated activity changes on 1st September- you can read about it on the government website.** This means that who needs this higher level of check will change. It mainly impacts people who volunteer with under 18s. Look at the new guidance and your roles descriptions to see who now needs the extra check. Speak to your Circuit Safeguarding Officer for more information.

3. Safeguarding Training dates

Here are some dates for online Advanced and Foundation training.

Foundation Training

Haven't done it before?

Zoom session on Monday 12th October, 6.30pm-9.30pm. Contact Rachel Bourne to book a place.

Need to re do it?

E-learning refresher package you can do any time. Enrol on the safeguarding section of the district websites.

Speak to your Circuit Safeguarding Officer to ask about in-person options.

Advanced Training

Online training

We have 15 dates for online Advanced Module training in 2026/2027! Book via the safeguarding section of the district websites.

Online training

We are running 5 in person Advanced modules across the Darlington and Newcastle Districts in 2026/2027. Ask your Circuit Safeguarding Officer, or look at the safeguarding section of the district websites.

4. 'Cause everytime we touch I get... permission!

Church life can involve physical contact with people, for example shaking hands or hugging during the peace. This is important for lots of people, but for some people it is very uncomfortable or stressful. We don't need to stop having physical contact, we just need to ask first, and respect each others boundaries.

Don't forget...

- We all have different boundaries around what level of physical contact we are comfortable with. We are all different!
- **Always ask permission before touching someone, every time.**
- It's not rude to say no to touch
- Contact Carolyn or Rachel, or speak to someone you trust, if you are worried or uncomfortable about touch in church

There is a poster and a leaflet to help you to start a conversation in your church about touch. These are on the district websites, or speak to your Circuit Safeguarding Officer for copies.

"I wanted to attend a local church, but they hugged everyone at the door. I haven't been back."

Check out the safeguarding resources on the District websites! We've put together some guides and templates to help you with safer recruitment, risk assessments, making a safeguarding notice board, and more! You'll find these by clicking on the safeguarding tab at the top of both the Darlington and Newcastle website home pages.

Contact the Regional Safeguarding Team

Carolyn Godfrey - 07534 346374 - 020 7467 3532
GodfreyC@methodistchurch.org.uk

Rachel Bourne - 07903710759 - 020 7467 5272
BourneR@methodistchurch.org.uk

