***Connexional Safeguarding Information Section***

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

If you are part of a Methodist church or attending an activity at a church location, you can do your part to support safeguarding:

* Find out the **name of the person responsible** for safeguarding and how you can contact them
* **Provide feedback** to a safeguarding officer (at church, circuit, district or Connexional Team) if you think that safeguarding practice could be improved
* Check that a local safeguarding policy is **prominently displayed** and inform the safeguarding officer if it is not easily visible
* Take time to read the local safeguarding policy to understand how it **applies to you**
* If **safeguarding training** is offered, make it a priority as part of your commitment to keeping others and yourself safe in the Church
* **Report any safeguarding concerns** you may have to a minister or safeguarding officer as soon as possible

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Survivors**  The Church recognises the devastating impact on survivors who suffer harm within a church context.  It remains a deep source of grief and shame that as a Christian Church, such abuse represents a clear failure to live in ways that glorify God and honour Christ. | [Support for Survivors (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/support-for-survivors/) |
| **Past Cases Review**  This is the report of an independent review of past safeguarding cases related to the Church from 1950 to 2014 from came 10 themes which have strongly influenced how we respond to safeguarding within the Methodist Church. | [Courage, Cost and Hope - Past Cases Review (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/safeguarding-test/reporting-a-concern/courage-cost-and-hope-past-cases-review/)  10 key themes pdf |
| **Safeguarding Policies**  The most up to date Connexional safeguarding policies can be found at:  There are also model church and circuit safeguarding policies available. | [Policy documents (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/safeguarding-test/policy-documents/)  Model church safeguarding policy  Model circuit safeguarding policy |
| **Safer recruitment**  Safer recruitment is an approach to appointment of volunteers, clergy and paid staff that puts safeguarding at the heart of the process.  Every stage of the recruitment process should be considered carefully in order to deter unsuitable candidates from applying or being appointed into positions of responsibility in the Church. | [Safer recruitment (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/safeguarding-test/safer-recruitment/) |