

Safeguarding Newsletter

Local Information

District Safeguarding Officer

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Connexional Safeguarding

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Dates for Online Foundation Module

Day	Date	Time
Weds	10/03/21 Full	19.00
Tues	23/03/21 Full	10.00
Sat	10/04/21 Full	10.00
Mon	26/04/21 Full	19.00
Thurs	13/05/21	19.00
Tues	25/05/21 Full	10.00
Weds	09/06/21	19.00
Sat	19/06/21	10.00

Booking:

Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/manchester-and-stockport-methodist-district-safeguarding-foundation-module-tickets-141407582887>

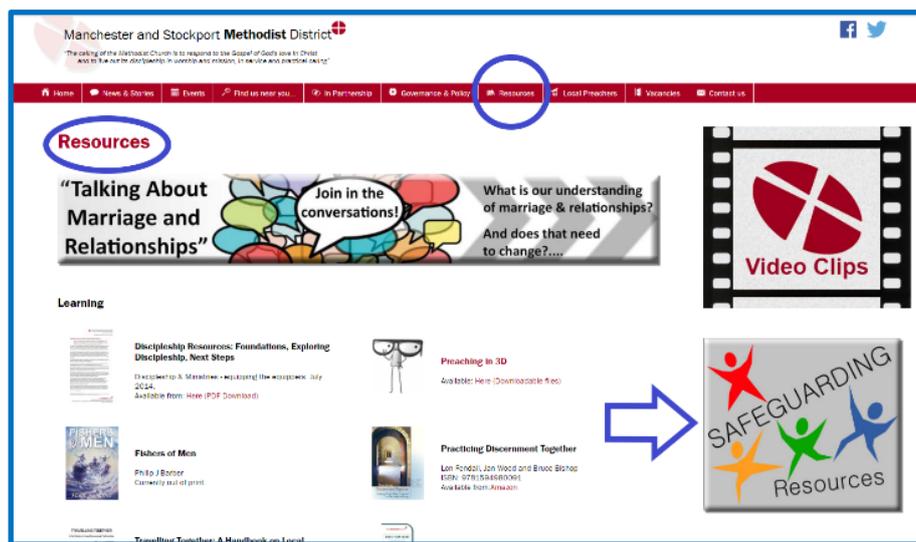
Events page - District website

[Forthcoming Events - Manchester and Stockport Methodist District \(mandsmethodists.org.uk\)](#)

Access to resources on the District Website

Thanks to the help and support of Philip Ronson, we now have a range of safeguarding resources available directly from the District website to save you having to look elsewhere to find what you need.

These can now be found on the resource page as below:



From there you can find documents in sections as below:

- District policy, guidance and best practice – *includes local policies and local safer working guidance*
- Policy, guidance and best practice – *these are largely Connexional documents, including the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church in Britain, Connexional and local model Church and Circuit Safeguarding Policies etc*
- Safer Recruitment, including DBS – *including links to the relevant Connexional forms, information about using the DDC website*
- Room Bookings/Building Hire – *including links to the relevant TMCP information, links to the relevant Connexional forms, and localised forms*
- Example Risk Assessment Templates
- Model Safeguarding/Other Documentation Templates – *including model recording templates, consent forms*
- Model Safeguarding Audit Templates – *which are those we use locally*
- Manchester and Stockport District Quarterly Safeguarding Newsletters

Please take a look, and we do hope you find this helpful

Information from the Charity Commission

Safeguarding in faith charities

This information is taken from the seminar *Safeguarding in a faith charity context* held on Saturday 6 February 2021 and Wednesday 10 February 2021

The Charity Commission has a Faith Outreach Team, whose objectives are to:

- support unregistered faith-based charities to register
- support faith-based charities with governance

Email

faithoutreach@charitycommission.gov.uk

Website

www.gov.uk/charity-commission

Why do we need to safeguard within faith charities?

MailOnline

Evangelical Church
“pressured parents” to try to
cover up abuse of boy, 14

The Telegraph

Trustee of UK charity “covered
up abuse” by Buddhist guru



Jehovah's Witness leader guilty of
rape and seven other indecent
assaults

theguardian

Mosque trustees failed to
monitor IS sympathiser who
groomed boys for terrorism,
inquiry finds

As part of fulfilling your trustee duties, you must take reasonable steps to protect from harm people who come into contact with your charity

Identifying and managing the possible and probable risks is key to effective governance.



The higher the risk, the higher the effort to ensure that:

- significant risks are known and monitored
- trustees can make informed decisions and take timely action

What does the Charity Commission expect of us?

That we:

- provide a safe and trusted environment
- set an organisational culture that prioritises safeguarding
- have adequate safeguarding policies, procedures and measures
- handle incidents as they arise

How Are Faith Charities Vulnerable?

- often run by volunteers
- open door
- offer reintegration/redemption
- trust
- spiritual authority
- relationships continue outside place of worship

Safeguarding Procedures Which You Might Need In A Faith Charity/Place Of Worship

- responding to concerns about a child's/ person at risk's welfare
- storing records

- preventing and responding to bullying
- recruiting the right people
- codes of conduct for all staff and volunteers
- managing concerns about or allegations made against staff or volunteers
- managing concerns about or allegations made against a child or young person
- making sure all your activities and events are run safely
- adult to child ratios for supervising children effectively
- taking, storing and sharing photographs and images of children
- keeping staff and beneficiaries safe online
- whistleblowing and complaints

**Charities Should Report Any Serious Incident That Results In
– Or Risks – Significant Serious Safeguarding Incidents**



**Harm to people who come
into contact with your charity**



**Loss of your charity's money
or assets**



**Damage to your charity's
property**



**Harm to your charity's work
or reputation**

**Examples of serious safeguarding
incidents**

- Incidents of harm or mistreatment (alleged or actual) of beneficiaries of the charity (adults or children)
- Someone connected with the charity was responsible for the harm or mistreatment (alleged or actual) of people who come into contact with the charity through its work

- breaches of procedures or policies at the charity which have put people who come into contact with it through its work at significant risk of harm



Case Study

- The Commission was notified of the existence of a letter which had been published on the internet
- The letter contained numerous accounts from beneficiaries describing mental, physical and sexual abuse by a spiritual leader, which were alleged to have taken place over several years
- The Commission opened a statutory inquiry under the Charities Act 2011

The inquiry was established to consider the following regulatory issues:



Findings

- Senior individuals within the charity were aware of the issues and failed to address them, which exposed the charity's beneficiaries to risk of harm
- Previous allegations of mental, physical and sexual abuse had not been reported to the Commission
- Failure to report serious incidents amounted to mismanagement and/or misconduct by the former trustees

Impact

- The Commission disqualified and removed two of the former trustees
- The charity now has a new board of trustees in place and has adopted new safeguarding policies and procedures to better safeguard its beneficiaries
- Public trust and confidence have been severely affected and the charity will have to mend reputational damage

Further Information

[Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Charities: how to protect children and adults at risk - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Charities and risk management \(CC26\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Document title \(bond.org.uk\)](http://bond.org.uk)

[Guidance on handling safeguarding allegations in a charity | Office for Civil Society \(culture.gov.uk\)](http://culture.gov.uk)

[The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Steps to a safer organisation — NCVO Knowhow](#)

[Home — Charity Governance Code](#)

Dementia in our churches

What is dementia?

Alzheimer's disease

comparatively rare in under-65s
the most common form of dementia

Vascular dementia

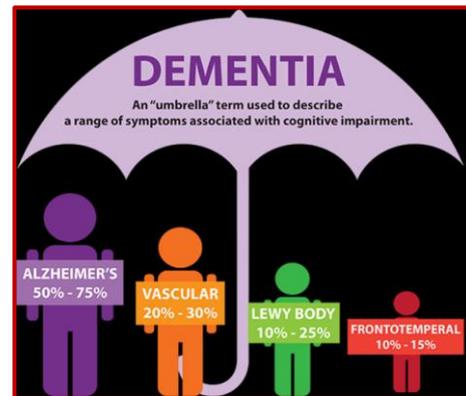
an umbrella term for a group of conditions caused by problems with blood circulation to the brain.

Lewy body dementia

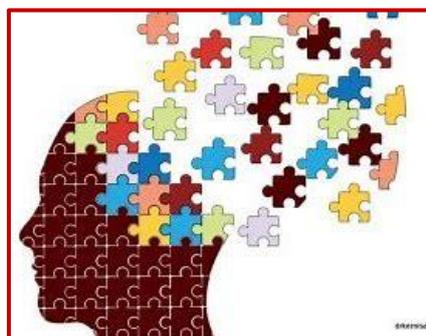
progressive condition that affects movement and motor control
subtypes - dementia with Lewy bodies and Parkinson's disease dementia

Frontotemporal dementia

group of conditions caused by the death of nerve cells and pathways in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain
more common in under 65's



There are other, less common, forms of dementia such as those related to excessive alcohol consumption over a prolonged period of time.



What can churches do?



Be dementia friendly

- Dementia-friendly churches include people with dementia and their carers and recognise how they can make a positive and welcome contribution to the church
- They help to facilitate change in the community that will bring about the inclusion and participation of those with dementia, and their carers
- They offer people with dementia a sense of value and dignity
- They make adjustments and adaptations to places and practices of worship

“So much of our personhood is held in our faith – from the routine and tradition of church attendance and the relationships we form with other worshippers, to the identity we find in Christ. As dementia strips people of these anchors, we as a church have the opportunity to help those living with dementia preserve this essential portion of ‘self’ that is encompassed by faith.”

Dr Ruth Law, Consultant in Integrated Geriatric Medicine, Whittington Hospital

Any support in this?

**Dementia Friendly Church
Resource Pack (2019)**

Prama
Christian
Foundation

[RESOURCE GUIDE | Dementia Friendly
Ch \(dementiafriendlychurch.org.uk\)](https://dementiafriendlychurch.org.uk)

**Developing a dementia-
friendly church A practical
guide**

Livability

[Developing a Dementia-Friendly
Church \(dementiaaction.org.uk\)](https://dementiaaction.org.uk)

**Growing Dementia-Friendly
Churches A Practical Guide**

Methodist
Homes (MHA)

[Growing Dementia Friendly
Churches: a Guide - Transforming Notts
Together](https://www.methodist.org.uk/growing-dementia-friendly-churches)

Christians on
Ageing
(CCOA)

Item from the Methodist Website about a Methodist Church in Bristol who had recently held a Dementia Information Day to provide meaningful outreach in the community.

[Dementia Information Day - Shirehampton Methodist Church, Bristol](#)

Item from the Methodist Website about a new ministry set up for those with dementia and their carers.

[Finding joy through memory worship - Wesley Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea](#)

The Methodist Church even shows regular "Memory Worship" online events on YouTube.

[Julie Peek - YouTube](#)

"Worship can be a channel for recalling the past, creating feelings of comfort, familiarity and spiritual fulfilment. We all have a continuing need to worship and experience a loving encounter with God and the afternoon takes a regular pattern of welcome, singing well-known hymns, reading familiar passages of scripture and saying the Lord's Prayer together.

At Memory Worship we believe in a God who accepts us and meets us where we are today"

More resources?

Alzheimer's Society



Provide:

- Support
- Medical and social research
- Information
- Campaign

Helpline: 0330 333 0804

[Alzheimer's Society - United Against Dementia](#)

Livability

A national Christian disability and community engagement charity

020 7452 2018

[Livability | Home](#)

Prama Foundation

The Prama Foundation Dementia Friendly Church project aims to help churches across the UK to become Dementia Friendly.

01202 207304

[Dementia Friendly Church - Home](#)

Christians on Ageing (CCOA)

A national ecumenical organisation focussing on the spiritual needs and development of older people.

01609 881408

christiansonageing.org.uk

Dementia Action Alliance



Brings together organisations across England committed to transforming the lives of people with dementia and their carers, including churches. They provide a simple checklist on creating dementiafriendly environments.

[Dementia Action Alliance](#)

Pathways Through Dementia

A charity, which provides free legal and financial information to support people living with dementia.

[Pathways Through Dementia](#)

Dementia UK



Provides specialist support for families facing dementia.

[Specialist support to families facing dementia | Dementia UK](#)

Supporting mental health during & after Covid

44% per cent of people said
lack of social contact was the
worst impact of the virus

Almost 60% said
the gulf between
social classes has
increased

By Jan 2021 10 million
people, including 1.5
million children, were
requiring new or
additional support

Since the start of the year there has been
a 70% rise in demand for children and
adolescent mental health services
(CAMHS)

1:6 children now has a
mental health issue

**There were 61,000 referrals to CAMHS in England last
November: up 66% on November 2019, up 139% on
November 2017**

Symptoms of social isolation/distancing:

- increased anxiety
- depression
- stress
- other negative feelings

Concerns about practical implications:

- financial difficulties
- employment
- education
- increase in social
inequality

*Children from the most
disadvantaged families
who are often without
digital access, falling
further behind at school
than others.*

Mental health crisis for children and young people?

Indicators:

- anxiety
- isolation
- eating disorders

- self-harm
- suicidal thinking
- psychosis

*Disproportionate impact
 on children living in
 poverty*

Further information

Position Paper Emily A Holmes, Rory C O'Connor, V Hugh Perry, Irene Tracey et al
 Lancet Psychiatry 2020; 7: 547–60
Published Online April 15, 2020
[Multidisciplinary research priorities for the COVID-19 pandemic: a call for action for mental health science \(thelancet.com\)](https://www.thelancet.com)

Governmental advice for parents and carers About looking after the mental health and wellbeing of children or young people during the coronavirus outbreak.
 Published: 29 March 2020
 Last updated: 16 March 2021
[COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Resources for professionals, parents and young people Explores different mental health issues and risk and vulnerability factors as well as how to recognise and respond when a child needs help.
 Last updated: 08 Jan 2021
[Supporting children's mental health during coronavirus | NSPCC Learning](#)



Mind Information and support service for those experiencing mental health issues and their families
 0300 123 3393
[Home | Mind](#)



Samaritans



24-hour listening service
 116 123
 Free to call

[How we can help | How Samaritans can help you | Samaritans](#)

CALM (the Campaign Against Living Miserably)



Daily helpline open 5pm-midnight
 0800 58 58 58

[What is CALM? - Campaign Against Living Miserably \(thecalmzone.net\)](#)

Webchat open 5pm-midnight

[Webchat - Campaign Against Living Miserably \(thecalmzone.net\)](#)

The Mix



Free support service for under 25's



0808 808 4994

[The Mix - Essential support for under 25s](#)

Rethink Mental Illness



Offers a range of advice and support for those experiencing mental health illness: advocacy, training, housing issues, criminal and secure services

Advice line 0808 801 0525 (Monday to Friday 10am-4pm)

[We are Rethink Mental Illness](#)

Shout



Shout is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone struggling to cope and in need of immediate help

Text to 85258

[About Shout 85258 | Shout 85258 \(giveusashout.org\)](#)

Useful messages to give

*You are not
alone*

Talk to someone

Know that what you're
experiencing is a normal
reaction to a completely
abnormal situation

It's alright to say no

You are so loved

*It's OK not
to be OK*

*Your wants and
needs are valid*

*Don't use social
media to seek
validation*

*Your mistakes
don't define you*

*You are important, and
you matter*

*Make sure you're still connecting
with friends in real life*

Let me help you

I'm here for you

*Don't be so hard on
yourself, you're
doing OK*

*I know your
pain is real*

You're not crazy

And for us

*Whenever you feel unloved,
unimportant or insecure, remember
to whom you belong
Ephesians 2:19-22*

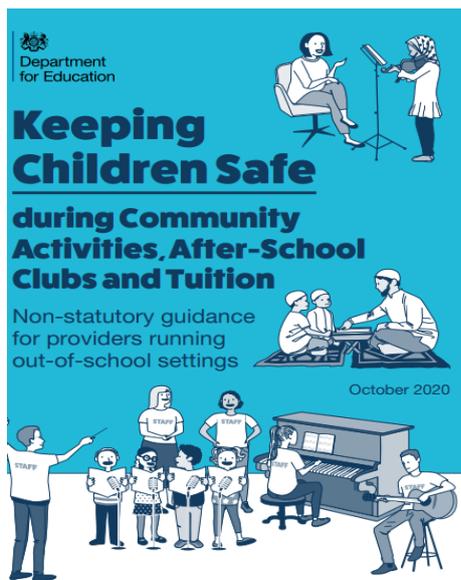
*Anxiety in a man's heart
weighs him down, but a
good word makes him glad
Proverbs 12:25*

*I will not cause pain without
allowing something new to be born,
says the Lord
Isaiah 66:9*

*When Elijah said
"Lord, I want to die",
God gave him strength to live.
1 Kings 19*

New Guidance

Keeping children safe: code of practice



[Keeping children safe: code of practice \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- Non-statutory guidance helping providers of out-of-school settings (OOSS – *which include Christian Sunday Schools*) understand best practice for creating a safe environment for children in their care.
- Covers guidance for safeguarding practice across four areas: health and safety; safeguarding and child protection; suitability of staff and volunteers; and governance.

Workplace support for victims of domestic abuse: review report

The report outlines the alarming statistics of the prevalence of domestic abuse and the impact of domestic abuse on victims and children.

There are economic and social costs of domestic abuse due to lost productivity and economic costs for individuals and their employers.

[Workplace support for victims of domestic abuse: review report \(accessible webpage\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Research shows that the potential loss of earnings per female victim of abuse is **£5,800 per year** and UK businesses lose **£316 million** in economic output each year as a result of work absences linked to domestic abuse.

There are 2.3 million victims of domestic abuse a year aged 16 to 74 (two thirds of whom are women).

The economic impact for a victim can include:

- unemployment
- diminished employment prospects
- poverty
- debt
- poor credit ratings.

Ways in which perpetrators sabotage victims' employment include:

- hiding money or bank cards needed for travel
- ruining work clothes
- making a victim late
- causing injury that leads to sickness absence.

More than 1 in 10 of all offences recorded by the police are domestic abuse related.

Between 36 per cent and 75 per cent of employed victims are harassed by abusive partners while at work.

Impact of the Coronavirus pandemic

- exacerbated domestic abuse with an increase in demand for support services
- feeling loss of their 'safe space'

Characteristics of a supportive workplace, include:

- Recognition of the problem
- Belief in the victim's story
- Signposting to specialist services
- Offering a range of options to the individual
- A clear policy which sets out the support offered and the approach to dealing with disclosures.

Barriers to support include:

- Limited support being available, or not easily accessible or up to date
- Individuals reluctant to disclose domestic abuse at work
- Lack of recognition of diversity amongst victims.
- Lack of appropriate signposting, especially to specialist services that support victims from black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, migrants, LGBT people, disabled people and men

55 per cent of the women killed by their ex-partner or spouse in 2017 were killed within the first month of their separation and 87 per cent in the first year.

- Migration status may be a barrier to disclosing abuse. Victims may be employed by their abusers or work closely with them through a family business. Alternatively, victims may work in insecure jobs which may make it more difficult to ask their employer for help.

What will the Government do?

- build awareness and understanding of domestic abuse as a workplace issue
- To support employers in developing best practice
- encourage flexibility in the workplace

[fco_domestic-abuse-employers-guide_sept-2020-final.pdf \(farrer.co.uk\)](https://www.farrer.co.uk/publications/fco-domestic-abuse-employers-guide-sept-2020-final.pdf)

[Health, safety and wellbeing: Working from home during the coronavirus pandemic - Acas](#)

Regulating video-sharing platforms ([ofcom.org.uk](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk))

- Video-sharing platforms (VSPs) are a type of online video service which allows users to upload and share videos with the public.
- Since November 2020, UK-established VSPs have had to comply with new rules around protecting users from harmful content.
- These aim to protect users from the risk of viewing harmful content.
- Providers must have in place appropriate measures to:



> protect young people from content which might impair their physical, mental or moral development.

> protect the general public from criminal content and material likely to incite violence or hatred.

> ensure standards around advertising are met.



The Dark Web: what is it?



What is the dark web?

How do people access it?

Is it illegal?

[What Is The Dark Web? | The Children's Society](#)

- Understanding a young person's internet use is an integral part of safeguarding and supporting them.
- Many young people view their digital self as an extension of their identity and sense of self. Therefore, it's crucial that we are supporting young people digitally.

- This guide looks at the dark web, how young people might use it and what to do if you have safety concerns.



Structure of the Internet

Surface web Comprises 10% of total size of internet
All sites indexed by search engines and easily accessible
eg Facebook, Twitter etc
Largely cluttered and unfiltered

Special access only at this point

Deep web Content not indexed by standard search engines
Largely innocuous
Extremely well organised and filtered
eg
• Government resources
• medical records
• academic information
• legal documents

100% anonymous after this point

Dark web Forms deepest layer of the deep web
Believed that most of the content here is criminal
A 2015 study showed main content as:
• Illegal pornography
• Black markets
• Hacking groups
• Drugs

School closures and childrens emotional and behavioural difficulties

[School-closures-and-childrens-emotional-and-behavioural-difficulties.pdf](https://kinstacdn.com/School-closures-and-childrens-emotional-and-behavioural-difficulties.pdf)
(kinstacdn.com)

This research specifically examines the role of school closures in England on the emotional and behavioural wellbeing of children aged 5-11.

- The increase in difficulties, particularly relating to behaviour, was greater among children who hadn't returned to school
- The research suggests that the effects of school closures on children's wellbeing are large, and that they may take some time to recover.
- additional support for children's mental health and wellbeing is likely to be required for some time.



Other Information

Positions of Trust

The law regarding Positions of Trust, which currently applies in England and Wales to roles like teachers and social workers, is to be extended to cover sports coaches and religious leaders. It will make it illegal for those in these groups to engage in sexual activity with 16 and 17-year-olds in their care.



The reason for this extension is that such adults have very high levels of trust, influence, responsibility, power and authority (especially as religious leaders) and these figures are well established, trusted and respected in the community. As a result, there is a significant power imbalance between the adult and young person – even if the young person may not view the relationship as abusive or exploitative – which would amount to an abuse of the adult’s position of trust and leaves the child open to manipulation and grooming.

Positions of Trust factsheet

[Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021: positions of trust factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Press Release

[Justice overhaul to better protect the public and back our police - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Childhood bereavement

Every 22 minutes a child in the UK loses a parent, however, it is now feared that this number could be even higher because of the coronavirus pandemic.

23,600 Parents of a child under the age of 18 die every year.

1 in 29 of 5-16-year-olds have experienced the death of a parent or sibling.

There are concerns that already overstretched child bereavement services won't be able to cope with increased demand.

See:

[No Child Left Behind UK CIC \(daviesa.com\)](#)

Alex Davies is the Member of Youth Parliament for Stockport and founder of No Child Left Behind UK campaigning to increase the support that is given to bereaved young people.

Everyone's Invited

Everyone's Invited is an online campaign inviting users to post anonymous testimonies of sexual assault and harassment within educational settings.

[Welcome - Everyone's Invited](#)

Experiences recounted range from being drugged and raped at parties to explicit images being shared over messaging platforms.



What is rape culture?

Rape culture exists when thoughts, behaviours, and attitudes in a society have the effect of normalising and trivialising sexual violence. Behaviours such as misogyny, slut shaming, victim blaming, and sexual harassment create an environment where sexual violence and abuse can exist and thrive.

All behaviours, attitudes, thoughts and experiences in this culture are interconnected.

Invitation - Methodist Safeguarding Committee

The Methodist Safeguarding Committee is seeking the appointment of new members to serve for a period of **six years**.

The committee is responsible for:

- Overseeing the work of safeguarding across the church
- Advising and guiding on policies, procedures and practice as the church seeks to become a safer place for all
- Assessing the cases of individuals who may pose a safeguarding risk and identifying suitable measures to manage such situations.

The committee normally meets face to face or virtually **three times a year**. Two of these meetings are to deal with business items and the third is an annual training day. Face to face meetings normally take place in London.

In addition to committee meetings, members sit on Safeguarding Panels which consider risk assessments of individuals of a safeguarding concern.

The committee is made up of full members of the Methodist church who have a professional background in safeguarding and/ or have a level of seniority by nature of the work or role they have played in the church. We are wishing to appoint members in both categories.

The committee is supported by representatives from Action for Children, Methodist Homes and the Methodist Survivors Advisory Group. We are keen to increase the diversity on the committee and the understanding of survivors' perspectives.

If you are interested in serving in this way, please send a short, reasoned statement (**maximum 400 words**) outlining your experience and interest in this opportunity and provide names of **two referees** who we can contact for further information. If you know of someone who might be suitable, please encourage them to apply.

Successful applicants will be interviewed and those that progress will be presented for approval by the Methodist Council in September.

If you wish to discuss this opportunity further please contact Tim Carter, Director of Safeguarding [Email Tim Carter](#)

Closing date for expressions of interest: March 31 2021

Invitation – Manchester and Stockport District Safeguarding Group

Manchester and Stockport District Safeguarding Group (DSG) is seeking the appointment of new members to serve for a minimum period of **three years**.

The DSG is responsible for:

- supporting and overseeing safeguarding in local churches and circuits across Manchester and Stockport Methodist District
- working to ensure that a positive safeguarding culture is embedded into all activities across the District
- providing assurance on safeguarding to the District Council.

The DSG meets face to face or virtually **three times a year** and is chaired by our Independent Chair who fulfils the role of a critical friend. However, there may periodically be the need for members to engage in developmental activities.

A copy of the Terms of Reference for the DSG can be found on the District Website (*see page 2*) and contains the role description for members.

For further information please contact **Helen Bolton**, DSO on 07498 800427 or mands@dso.methodist.org.uk

**If you have any suggestions for
content of future Safeguarding
Updates please let Helen know**