 **The Methodist Church**

**East Anglia District**

**Safeguarding Forum**

Thursday 16th May 2019

Pulham Market Methodist Church, 7.00pm

Here is a summary of items covered at the meeting. If you were unable to attend and need further information on anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

* Audits – Thanks to all who have worked hard to get this completed. There are a few outstanding which are being followed up on. The District Safeguarding Group will be analysing the results of the audit to identify areas where further support can be given.

* Training
* Advanced Module dates

**Thu 20th June Hunstanton 9.30-1.30**

The following dates are agreed but we are awaiting confirmation from Learning Network of the venues. As soon as they are finalised the dates and venues with booking details will be on the District Safeguarding website.

**Sat 6th July East Anglia (EA)  
Tues 23rd July Beds, Essex and Herts (BEH)  
Fri 9th August BEH   
Tues 3rd Sept EA   
Fri 13th Sept BEH   
Tues 1st Oct EA   
Sat 26th Oct BEH   
Tues 7th Nov EA**

* Training attendance list (April 2019). This has been reviewed - see <https://eangliamethodist.org.uk/we-care/safeguarding>
* Updated Policy, Procedures and Guidance, April 2019. This was updated in April and is available here - <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/11452/methodist_church_safeguarding_policy_-procedures_and_guidance-_april_2019.pdf>

Please note that there is an addendum page at the front, this needs checking out because sometimes the changes are more significant that suggested; see Risk Assessment below as an example of this.

* Risk Assessments – Activity Risk Assessments (a requirement in PP&G, April 219)

In the new model church policy there is the expectation that there will be Risk Assessments completed for all activities. There is a template for this on the District Safeguarding website – see link above. Church Councils need to ensure that this is completed by all group leaders or another person is delegated to ensure they are done. I would suggest that these are reviewed at least annually or when changes in a group are made.

* Personal Risk Assessment – a guide for assessing personal safety which might be helpful to consider for some volunteers.
* Lone Working – this is an issue for a number of churches; people accessing buildings alone for various purposes eg flower arranging, setting up for meetings, and churches which wish to keep they building accessible for community use, prayer etc at all times. Each church should have a Lone Working Policy and there is useful information available from the Suzi Lamplugh Trust - <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=61d3260c-818f-4646-8b3e-e2f09d1152a7>

This also highlights the Employers Responsibilities when an employee is engaged in any lone working.

* Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). Following the well publicised investigations within the Church of England, IICSA announced that they are extending their inquiries across other denominations including the Methodist Church. We do not know what form this will take, at the moment, but details of the announcement can be found here - <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-announces-new-investigation-child-protection-religious-organisations-and-settings>
* Information documents
* Restored – Ending Domestic abuse see the resources produced for churches: <https://restored.contentfiles.net/media/resources/files/Pack_for_Churches_2016_CwlOjRQ.pdf>
* Recording and Reporting

There needs to be a clear paper trail of all concerns and report of incidents. Church Safeguarding Officers should be reporting these to Circuit Safeguarding Officers and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer to District Safeguarding Officer.

Recording should be done carefully, mindful of the highlighted details in Leadership/Advanced Modules – Who, Where, When, How, What… Records should be clear, factual, signed and dated.

Templates of a recording form and a reporting form are available on the District website.

* Safer Recruitment policy survey. If you are interested in responding to the survey about the Methodist Church Safer Recruitment Policy which will update and develop the current DBS Guidance, the link is here:

<https://r1.dotmailer-surveys.com/09bvi0c-5e3u7rde>

* Date and venue of next Forums –

Monday 23rd September 2019, Thetford, 7.30pm

Thursday 16th January 2020, Thetford, 7.30pm