



The Methodist Church

Serving locally, connecting the county
Safeguarding in Lincolnshire District

CHAIR OF DISTRICT: **The Revd Bruce Thompson**

DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: **Howard Smedley: 07758 239286 / 01636 815319**

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Responding well

Safeguarding Policy for The Lincoln Circuit

Introduction.

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The Lincoln Circuit is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

The Lincoln Circuit recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether by disabilities or by reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The Lincoln Circuit fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

The Lincoln Circuit recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and adults who are vulnerable and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media or human trafficking. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The Lincoln Circuit commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or adult may have been harmed, whether in the Church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust. It commits itself to providing informed pastoral care to those in need, including the supervision of those who have committed criminal offences.

The Lincoln Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy 2017, District Safeguarding Policies 2017, District Safer Recruitment Policy 2017 and safe practice in the circuit and in the local churches.

The Lincoln Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Purpose

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the **Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church (2017)**.

The Lincoln Circuit appoints **Julia Smith, Alan Measures and Allison Hirst** as Circuit

Safeguarding Officers and supports them in their role.

Roles and responsibilities

Superintendent

1. Ensure all churches have appropriate and up-to-date safeguarding policies in place.
2. Support the Church and Circuit Safeguarding Officers in exercising responsibility for the implementation of safeguarding policy and practice.
3. Ensure the provision of pastoral support for those involved in issues of abuse and in management of sex offenders.
4. Ensure training opportunities are in place for all workers with children and adults, for staff of the Circuit and for members of the local churches in the circuit.
5. Ensure the Circuit has at least one Circuit Safeguarding Officer.
6. Ensure the Circuit Meeting reviews this policy annually.

Circuit Stewards

Ensure agreed safeguarding procedures are in place for Circuit.

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

- receive safeguarding information as it comes via DSG and other sources and take action as advised;
- give advice / support on safeguarding across the circuit and especially to Ministers/Superintendents, advise on wider issues involving children and adults and promote safeguarding generally in the circuit through relevant meetings and appropriate settings;
- be a point of reference to give advice on safeguarding policies and procedures;
- represent the voice / needs of the child / adult in the life of the church – to take a role in offering advice in situations where additional considerations about children etc. need to be given e.g. risk assessments, renovation of buildings, future planning for services and activities;
- report back to the DSG any feedback that may be relevant and helpful – bringing to the DSG themes and issues that need consideration and may need attention on a wider level, or may affect changes needed to policy and practice;
- attend the District safeguarding meetings to ensure being up to date with relevant safeguarding information and developments;
- be a part of any Safeguarding contract in place within the Circuit to support an offender or someone who poses a risk;
- work with the DSO on all safeguarding matters as appropriate;
- work with the Circuit administrator in maintaining and developing safeguarding information systems for the retention of key information e.g. DBS. Training etc.
- assist in the implementation of relevant safeguarding training across the circuits;

- act as Safeguarder for all Circuit roles as per the District Safer Recruitment Policy 2017.

Status of the Policy.

This Circuit Policy is in line with the requirements as laid down in the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures of the Methodist Church 2017 and therefore is mandatory.

Responding Well.

The Lincoln Circuit will have

The Responding Well flowchart and summaries of District policies displayed in its churches so that everyone knows who to pass concerns to. It takes seriously the need to respect, listen and respond to those who raise concerns. It will deal with concerns without delay and with the support of the Circuit and District Safeguarding Officers.

Review

This policy was agreed at the Circuit meeting held on 21st September 2017

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Circuit Leadership Team. The date of the next review is September 2018

signed by Circuit Superintendent.....

signed by CLT secretary.....

Date.....