

Safeguarding update Autumn Synod 2013

SAFER RECRUITMENT & DBS

The new safer recruitment guidelines were sent to all circuits in June. This is a hefty document but needs to be implemented locally for the recruitment of all paid staff and all volunteers in the churches.

We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures

The new DBS certificate is a part of this new safer recruitment process and should not be seen as a stand-alone check but as one of the recruitment checks on taking on people into roles in the churches. One of the implications of the new arrangements is the proposed enhanced role for the church safeguarding officer. The DBS certificates are only returned to the applicant and not the verifier.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is now called the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) - CRB checks are now called DBS checks.

The CAS on line application system for DBS checks is now live.

[Please note that ministers cannot use the electronic DBS system and need to complete paper copies](#)

Please read the detailed guidance notes for both applicants and verifiers at the following address:

<http://www.churchsafe.org.uk/resources>

Whilst those post holders that previously required a CRB in Methodism can still obtain a new DBS, there is a requirement under The Freedom of Information Act and reinforced by our guidelines, that Safer Recruitment procedures will have been followed for the appointment of both paid staff and all volunteers.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/safe-update-5-1110-recruiting-safely-policy.pdf>

& the DBS eligibility guidance

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/agencies-public-bodies/dbs/dbs-checking-service-guidance/eligibility-guidance?view=Binary>

The new forms are to be ordered from Methodist Publishing – the direct link is

<https://secure2.cyberware.co.uk/~cb537/cgi-bin/ss000001.pl?page=search&SS=dbs&PR=-1&TB=A>

Creating Safer Space Foundation Module/Leadership Module

We need to keep a rolling programme for CSS FM as it is a requirement for all those who have a role in relation to safeguarding to attend the 2.5 hour course. Please can circuits let us know when they are running courses. When there are any changes to circuit or church safeguarding officers Gill needs to know please.

Safeguarding update Autumn Synod 2013

CREATING SAFER SPACE LEADERSHIP MODULE [CSS LM]

The Regional Training Officers and I, have run several CSS LM courses during the last year and many of you have attended. During 2014 we shall be putting on further days for those who are required to attend. It is a 6 hour course and will necessitate a day's commitment to attend. It is a requirement that those who need to do the CSS LM will have done so before 31st August 2015. Please sign up when the dates become available. All ministers and circuit safeguarding officers are required to attend along with others in leadership positions.

The new CSS LM handbooks are available free of charge from Methodist Publishing postage payable, or as a download. We will of course supply the handbooks at the training events

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding/creating-safer-space/leadership-module>

Past Cases Review [PCR]

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding/past-cases-review>

From March 2013 the past cases review is being rolled out in Clusters until the end of 2014. Letters will be sent to all Presbyters, Deacons, District Chairs, Superintendent Ministers and former Presidents and Vice Presidents approximately 4 weeks before the date for the cluster

Dates for BEH district:

We are at the end of the process in 2014 and will give more information at Spring Synod.

We are in Cluster 10 East Anglia (14), Beds, Essex, Herts (34) & Lincolnshire (17)

September 2014 Letters will be sent out

The review invites anyone from the districts with any knowledge of a previous or current concern, to notify the safeguarding team, using the response form provided. The Church has commissioned an independent expert who will review all the responses and advise the Church on any action that needs to be taken.

Gill Crippen: BEH District Executive Officer for Safeguarding safeguarding@behdistrict.org.uk

Ph. Contact: home office 01451 829910

NEW Methodist designated MOBILE NUMBER: 07793 012215