



# District Safeguarding Newsletter

## Spring 2019

*The aim of our Safeguarding Newsletters is to provide you with the latest information relating to best practice within safeguarding, update you with any changes in policy and provide you with information regarding training opportunities. Please circulate via email to as many people as you can around your Circuit and feel free to display a copy on your church safeguarding notice board.*

*Occasionally we will write articles about specific safeguarding issues, if there is anything you would like to see contained within the newsletter or have any feedback/questions about what we have written please contact District Safeguarding Officer, Katy Spencer-Madden at [katyspencermadden@gmail.com](mailto:katyspencermadden@gmail.com)*

### Upcoming Courses



#### **Creating Safer Space Advanced Module**

We have nearly completed one full Connexional year roll-out of the new Advanced Module. Next Connexional year (Sept-Aug) we will be visiting the Circuits that we didn't manage to visit year. We have trained over 300 people so far and we hope to have trained everyone within the District who is required to complete the Advanced Module over the next two years. We are very thankful to all the Circuits that have hosted us and all the people that have attended so far, we value the helpful feedback you have given us.

Through the training, our aim is to continue raising awareness about the importance of safeguarding within the mission and ministry of our churches and how all of us can directly have an impact on our churches being safe spaces for all.

Please see our new course dates below. Booking for all these courses is now through Eventbrite. Please visit the website [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) search 'Yorkshire West Methodist Advanced Module,' choose your preferred date to attend and register for a ticket to book a place on the course. If you are struggling to do this please contact District Safeguarding Officer, Katy Spencer-Madden – [katyspencermadden@gmail.com](mailto:katyspencermadden@gmail.com) or 07771960455.

#### **Aire and Calder Circuit**

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Lofthouse Methodist Church, Wakefield  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Central Methodist Church, Pontefract

#### **Denby Dale and Clayton West Circuit**

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Cawthorne Methodist Church, Barnsley  
Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 – St Andrews, Penistone

#### **Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit**

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Guiseley Methodist Church  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Guiseley Methodist Church

# NOTICES



If you are in need of first aid training for your church, one person delivering training is Rhys Evans, a Circuit Safeguarding Officer within our District. Please see Rhys' website for more details; [www.calculatedcalm.co.uk](http://www.calculatedcalm.co.uk)



Much thanks to Bradford South and Airedale Circuits for hosting us to deliver the Advanced Module, especially Aldersgate, Oakworth and Silden Methodist Churches, we value all the assistance and support you give us to helping us to set up for training.



Barbara Glasson and Penny Johnson regularly hold 'Play with Words' – a creative writing day for women who are survivors of abuse at Touchstone in Bradford. Costing £30 for the day with a light lunch provided.

The next 'Play with Words' is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am to 3.00pm. This is short notice, however if you know of anyone who may wish to attend this event or future events, please contact Katy Spencer-Madden ([katyspencermadden@gmail.com](mailto:katyspencermadden@gmail.com) or 07771960455).



**Safeguarding Policy,  
Procedures and Guidance**  
for the Methodist Church  
in Britain

This document has just been updated and added to the Methodist Church website as well as our own Yorkshire West District website; the link is also below.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding/policies-procedure-and-information/policies-and-guidance/>



On the second page of this document there is a list of all the changes that have been made since it was last updated.

Approved by the  
Methodist Council  
April 2018

The **Methodist Church**

### Driving Licence Checks

People are enquiring about how licences can be checked now that the paper section of the licence is no longer issued. This is updated in the new policy, however a licence check should be undertaken via the website [www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence) for all drivers annually. Drivers are those who are transporting under an official capacity for a Methodist Church, e.g. driving a group of young people to an event. The driver's permission should be obtained, along with details of their national insurance number and the address that is shown on their licence; these are required to undertake the check.



**DBS**  
Checked



### DDC Duplicate Check/Withdrawal

Where duplicate applications have been entered onto the DDC system, the verifier will need to request for this to be withdrawn by sending an email to [contact@ddc.net.uk](mailto:contact@ddc.net.uk) with the reference number confirming it is a duplicated. Below are a few reasons why a duplicate application may occur:

- Error made in details entered
- Incorrect role applied for
- Role is not in connection with the Methodist Church



### Guide for checking documents

For some time, there has been a useful guide from the Home Office showing things to look at when checking documents as part of the verification process such as passports. Below is the website should you find this useful.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-identity-checking-guidelines/id-checking-guidelines-for-dbs-check-applications-from-3-september-2018>

### Plug Socket Covers

As can be viewed in the updated Methodist policy – plug socket covers are now not recommended to be used for health and safety purposes below (page 86 Policies, Procedures and Guidance).

***Electric socket covers must never be used as they present a safety hazard. UK sockets are supplied to the rigorous safety standards of BS 1363 but safety covers are unregulated and can cause permanent socket damage including:***



- ***Socket contact damage - results in overheating and possible fire***
- ***Socket shutter damage - the shutters will not be able to protect children***
- ***Some socket covers make it possible to poke pins and paper clips into the live parts***
- ***Broken plastic pins stuck in the earth hole - prevents shutters from closing***
- ***Wrong size pins can make covers easy to remove, some even pop out by themselves***
- ***Children like to play with socket covers - plugging in upside down opens the shutter and exposes live contacts***



## Sexting By Katy Spencer-Madden

Time for another social media issue. People may find this one a little embarrassing; talking about issues of a sexual nature doesn't always sit comfortably with us, but it is a 'real world' issue for many of our young people and as with the

other social media issues I have explored over the past few newsletters, is one that we need to increase our knowledge of and as churches have a voice on.

As the name suggests 'sexting' (sex texting) is sending of messages either via text or social media of a sexual nature. Often 'sexting' will involve taking intimate/explicit pictures and sending them to another person, often a boyfriend/girlfriend/partner. 'Sexting' could also involve sending messages revealing personal sexual details, behaviour or fantasies. This in itself is not illegal, however it is illegal to take, send or receive images of those under 18. Young people are not always aware that it is illegal, explain to them that

even if they are a minor and send a naked image of themselves to another minor, it is illegal and they could face serious consequences with the law.



## WHY PEOPLE SEXT

Studies have shown that attention and peer pressure are lead motivators. When pressured, many teen girls say that they do it in fear of losing the relationship if they refuse to sext. Other times teens think it makes them look cool to have a nude picture of their girlfriend/boyfriend.

- Peer pressure
- To gain attention
- To spark a relationship
- Popularity
- Flirting
- Joking
- To prove commitment
- To embarrass someone

image from <https://netsanity.net/what-is-sexting/>

So what is the issue? There is no issue with expressing yourself in this manner if you are over the age of 18, it is your personal choice to do so. There are however many dangers with taking these images and young people/young adults who do sext are not always aware of and the long-lasting implications.

Young people are often on their mobile phone, through this they have the ability to take a picture and send it to someone within a matter of seconds – this means upon a request for a naked picture, the time to rationally think through that decision isn't always there as a reply/response can be automatic. Try and encourage young people to stop, think and don't respond to any messages in haste.

Once a picture has been sent, there is no way of getting this back, it has gone and your trust is completely with the person to whom you sent the picture to; that they will not show it to others.

What could happen to images?

There is the potential that if a relationship/friendship breaks down that the images could be shown to others, e.g. friends within their peer group. This can have a devastating emotional impact on a young person/young adult, if they are knowingly aware of the images be shown. They can be victims of enormous amounts of bullying and victimisation from their peers. Often a person can be made to feel insecure and live in fear of the images being sent or posted on social media. Some people may threaten or blackmail a person claiming that they will send images to others. As you can imagine, this is linked to high rates of suicides and self-harm amongst young people having to live with that fear.



There is potential that not just showing images to others, images could be sent to others and therefore appear on social media and websites.

This make the person susceptible to high levels of bullying and abuse. If the individual is a minor these images can be taken and posted on child pornography sites. In some instances, where the person is a young adult, it can severely effect their prospects and many have lost jobs due to the posting of these on social media. Once an image has appeared on social media, it can be taken down if reported, however once it has been shared and the image is online, it is immensely difficult to erase all trace of it. Again the impact of this is long-lasting emotional trauma and in some instances people choose to end their life due to the devastation this causes.

This is not just limited to young people, many adults also face the same difficulties with people sharing inappropriate images/videos of them, especially once a relationship has broken down. Vulnerable adults could also be susceptible to being pressured into sending images, not fully understanding the impact of this.

It is a crime to show intimate images or videos, send them to another person, upload them to a website, or threaten to do this without a person's consent to share them.



You may have heard of 'revenge porn' prominently reported over the past few years. This is similar to sexting; an adult couple in a relationship make a sexually explicit video or take intimate pictures, the relationship ends and the video/pictures are shared with others without a person's consent as an act of revenge. This happens to

thousands of adults in the UK each year. There is online support and helplines available to offer advice. In 2015 revenge porn was made a criminal offence and a person could face a maximum prison sentence of up to two years for distributing images/videos without consent.

The two stories below show the consequences of sexting. Taken from <https://www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk/blog/2016/10/06/real-cases-of-sexting-the-impacts-and-effects/> .

### ***A teenage boy added to police database for 'sexting'***

*A 14-year-old boy in the north of England was added to a police intelligence database last year after sending a naked picture of himself to a female friend. The unnamed teenager was warned that if he ever applies for a job that required advanced criminal record checks, for example if he wanted to work with children, the incident could be "flagged".*

*After taking a sexual image of himself, the teenager sent it to a girl he was flirting with via Snapchat. The girl who received the Snapchat message took a screenshot of the image and shared it with her friends. The picture was then brought to the attention of the school.*

*In this case the boy was seen as the person in the wrong. If both himself and the girl in question were over 18, it would have been the boy who was treated as the victim, as the girl had shared his image without his permission and could be charged under new revenge porn laws. It is important to know how age affects laws.*

*The boy said he was "embarrassed" by the incident and now spends lunchtimes in the library to avoid being teased by classmates who claim to still have the image. He said: "I shouldn't have done it. It's just annoying really, something that I did when I was 14 could reflect badly in future."*

### ***Amanda Todd blackmailed relentlessly by online predator***

*Worst case scenarios of sexting have led to blackmail, depression and even suicide. Amanda Todd's name has become synonymous with sexting and cyber bullying and it is probably the highest profile case of sexting to date.*

*Amanda Todd was a Canadian teenager who suffered at the hands of an online predator and took her life at the age of 15. She created a video explaining her ordeal weeks before she committed suicide. After speaking with a man who had flattered her online she 'flashed' him but the man took a picture of her breasts. He asked her to put on another show for him, but she refused. The man then found her classmates on Facebook and sent them the photograph. To cope with the anxiety, Todd descended into drugs and alcohol and ill-advised flirtations and sex. Her classmates ostracised her. She was forced to move school but the images were sent to the new school as well. Amanda suffered from anxiety, major depression and panic attacks and attempted suicide a few times before finally succeeding.*

*The 38-year-old Dutch man who blackmailed and harassed Amanda relentlessly was suspected of blackmailing dozens of young women from the United States into performing sex acts on their web cams.*



### **The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)**

In March 2015, a government inquiry into child sexual abuse related to statutory and non-statutory organisations was set up. The Chair of the inquiry wrote to church leaders outlining the authority held by the inquiry to request information from organisations under Section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005.

As many of you will be aware the Church of England have recently been subject to the above inquiry. At some point in the future we as a Methodist Church could also be asked to present information to assist with the inquiry.

We were directed to retain information and not destroy anything until this inquiry is completed. If you have any of the following please ensure that you do not delete, destroy or tamper with the information.

- Safeguarding casework files and records.
- Safeguarding referrals for advice, inquires and support to other organisations and internally.
- Risk Assessments
- Documents created in relation to Safeguarding Panels.
- Safeguarding Contracts.
- Quality assurance information e.g. safeguarding audits, data returns etc.
- Files relating to education establishments, recruiting and safeguarding
- HR Staff files
- Complaints and discipline material
- Files on appointments to councils, committees and other bodies
- Files and papers relating to Subject Access Requests
- Safeguarding leadership and governance at a church, circuit district and Connexional level
- DBS checks
- Any records held of safeguarding concerns about children and young people or about behaviour towards them
- Policies and procedures relating to safeguarding children and young people

Records about a safeguarding concern or allegations relating to a child or vulnerable adult, the subject of the concern may be a member, volunteer or employee, role holder of minister (this includes risk assessments and safeguarding contracts and all related materials) – retention 75 years after the last contact relating to the subject or any survivor.