

Safeguarding: Groups Using Church Premises

Introduction

Following the recent Past Cases Review, the Methodist Church is re-iterating and strengthening its safeguarding requirements towards the various groups that use Methodist Church premises. The purpose of this is to set out detailed requirements needed by the Church Safeguarding Officer to obtain information from the various groups that use the Church premises.

Church Safeguarding Policy

Every user group should be given a copy of the Church Safeguarding Policy. Note that the standard form of licence issued by TMCP includes the following clause relating to safeguarding.

“The Licensee confirms that the Licensee has received a copy of the Safeguarding Policy, has an understanding of it, and undertakes to follow it or comparable equivalent guidelines and procedures (such as Scouting and Guiding national safeguarding policy) for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults at the Building.” (clause 4.1)

All groups involving children or vulnerable adults

The Church Safeguarding Officer should obtain and review copies of each group’s safeguarding policy. These should then be approved by the Church Council. Each group should have a copy of its safeguarding policy available for inspection when they are on church premises.

Pre-school and Nursery Groups

Groups such as pre-schools or nurseries that use the premises on a daily or near-daily basis should have their safeguarding policies permanently and clearly posted on a noticeboard.

DBS Checks

Church Safeguarding Officers should ask to see copies of the DBS checks for all members of staff of groups involving children or vulnerable adults. It is not necessary to obtain or take copies, but it is necessary to take names and the date of the DBS to follow up before the date runs out.

Training

Church Safeguarding Officers should invite all staff from each group that use the Church premises and are involved with children or vulnerable adults, to attend ‘Creating Safer Space’ training sessions. If it is not possible for all staff to attend, then representatives are required to attend. This is to ensure that user groups obtain proper understanding of how the Methodist Church approaches safeguarding.

If you require further advice or information, please contact the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, Cathy Snow – tel 07990 591240 e-mail: cathy.snow@hotmail.co.uk

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