



Safeguarding Newsletter

Newcastle District and Darlington District

Welcome to our October Newsletter! This is the place to find the latest information about safeguarding in the region.

1. Updates from Conference.

There are two main safeguarding updates from the Methodist Conference in the summer. You can read the Safeguarding Committee report to Conference [here](#).

Safeguarding structure changes agreed

These changes are to make safeguarding practices more uniform across the connexion. As part of this, DSOs will be employed by the Connexional team instead of districts. However, each District will continue to have a named safeguarding officer to contact. Read about these changes [here](#).

Changes to the Complain and Discipline procedures agreed

Part 11 of Standing Orders (the Complain and Discipline Processes) have been reviewed in a report. The report recommended some changes, to there is more focus on reconciliation and early resolution, where appropriate. Conference agreed to adopt the report, and the changes will be brought to the 2025 Conference.

2. Tees Valley Safeguarding Champions

The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) are inviting people who live, work, or volunteer in Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, or Redcar and Cleveland to become Safeguarding Champions.



**Teeswide Safeguarding
Adults Board
Champions**

Safeguarding Champions

Help to share key safeguarding messages in the region. Champions get updates on safeguarding developments, free training and resources, as well as information about support services available in your area that you can sign post people to. [Here](#) is more information. To sign up, email tsab.businessunit@stockton.gov.uk.

3. An Inclusive Church

Being equipped to identify and challenge discrimination is an important part of making our churches places where everyone is welcome and safe.

Safeguarding and Racial Justice Webinar

The Connexional safeguarding team are running a webinar on Racial Justice. It will look at:

- Tackling overt and covert racism
- The Church's historic involvement in colonialism and slavery
- Challenging unconscious bias

Register [here](#).

DBS Guidelines for Transgender people

Applying for a DBS if you are trans can be extra stressful due to worries about which name and gender will appear on the certificate, and not having accepted documents in a person's name if they have recently changed it.

[Here](#) are some guidelines to help you support trans applicants.

4. Digital Safeguarding

As your church or project online presents and use of digital communication grows, remember to think about keeping people safe.



Digital Safeguarding Best Practice

Safeguarding in an increasingly digital world is tricky. [Here](#) are some guidelines produced by Yorkshire North and East Districts. It covers church whatsapp groups, social media accounts, zoom meetings, websites, and much more.

Who you gonna call?

If you have a safeguarding concerns, contact:

Regional Safeguarding Officer: **Carolyn Godfrey** - 07534 346374 - newcastle.darlington@dso.methodist.org.uk

If you have queries about DBs or Safeguarding Trainings, contact:

Assistant Regional Safeguarding Officer: **Rachel Bourne** - 07903710759 - neregsafe.office@gmail.com

Chair of Regional Safeguarding Group: **Mark Braithwaite** - 07771 771360 - markbraithwaite@btinternet.com

