**Safeguarding Team News**

District Safeguarding Saturday July 2025

The District Safeguarding Saturday on Saturday 19th July hosted by Marlborough Road Methodist Church was a really successful event and we have received some positive feedback from those that attended. I would like to thank all those that attended for their positive and helpful contributions. I hope that development days such as these will become a regular event in the district calendar.

The aim of the day was to share recent developments for the district which included a workshop by Neil on being an active upstander and a preview of two new workshops developed by Sally.

Sally has developed a safer recruitment workshop to deliver to circuits on request to provide practical guidance and information on safer recruitment for all types of roles from volunteer to paid and from a few hours a week to full time. This workshop will be available with a DBS information session or can be delivered as a stand-alone workshop. It will take up to an hour to deliver with an additional 30 minutes to provide a DBS information session. It is aimed at those that are involved in recruiting in their churches and circuits. The workshop will be available from the start of the next connexional year and can be requested through Sally directly by the Circuit Safeguarding Officer or Superintendent. Ideally, I would request that neighbouring circuits can come together to optimise the time and effort needed to make this available to the whole district.

Sally has also developed an activity risk assessment workshop in conjunction with circuit safeguarding officers. Following the preview at the event on Saturday minor changes have now been included. The workshop has been designed to be delivered by circuit safeguarding officers within their circuits and the workshop will be made available to circuit safeguarding officers with facilitators notes. Sally will also be able to run this workshop alongside circuit safeguarding officers who would like some support initially. The workshop is designed to be delivered in 45 mins to 1 hour with a possibility of following this up with a clinic session for people to write their own risk assessments with support available to help or just as a stand-alone session to fit the needs and resources within the circuit.

Training News

The Safeguarding training programme moves on relentlessly as the year seems to fly by. Neil is now setting out the calendar for Christmas and the New Year. Neil has delivered a wide range of courses, including training the District team on the newly released Foundation materials.

Neil has been able to share best practice and course development with London, Lincoln, East Anglia, and Birmingham Districts both in person and online. Neil has developed training on “Dealing with Difficult Meetings’ and “Becoming an Active Upstander”. Neil is currently working on materials for a course on “Boundaries and Consent” which seems to be a popular topic for discussion at the moment.

Chinnor Methodist Church wins the award for the greatest number of attendees at one venue which seriously depleted the tea and biscuit stores. Neil has also recorded the hottest training day with a church peaking at 30 degrees during one of the hottest spells.

The Connexional Team has recently announced the development of an MCBX version of the Foundation training which will be launched soon.

The creativity award goes to Circuit Safeguarding Officer: Charlotte Davis from Stamford for making Safeguarding Prompt Dice to be used at Church meetings to prompt topics for discussion.

Connexional Changes

Following the current ongoing Connexional restructure Sally is due to move to the connexional team at the start of the connexional year as a Regional Officer of Safeguarding and will be aligned to the Northampton District. Therefore, it is not expected that there will be any significant change to the role that Sally undertakes in the District. Further information about new contact details for Sally will be provided in due course. Sally will remain contactable on her district email and phone until at least the end of August.

Neil’s email address and job title will change on the 1stAugust 2025, Neil will still monitor this address in the short term, but Neil will be found as follows:

 Hutchinsonn@methodistchurch.org.uk Neil’s new job title is “Regional Officer of Safeguarding” (ROS)

Please continue to contact Neil to arrange advanced safeguarding training until further notice.

Thanks

Sally and Neil