

### Foundation and Advanced Module Safeguarding Sessions

Places can be booked from the [District](#) website. **Remember** - Connexion have now granted an extension until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 for WLs and LPs who need to complete this training. Please encourage relevant people to book as soon as is convenient.

### Welcome to April Safeguarding News!

It was good to see so many of you at Synod; for those who were not there and do not see the Synod papers, I have included my Safeguarding report in this month's newsletter:

There have been so many changes over the last few months, but some things never change;

## Safeguarding is still everyone's responsibility

Within our churches, we look to each other for fellowship and support; perhaps it's been "virtual" in recent months, but we are very conscious of how much we need each other. Safeguarding is about Creating Safer Spaces so everyone can be welcomed safely and have the opportunity to experience the transformational grace of God.

Please don't think Safeguarding is only about training; it's far more than that. Safeguarding is about people, about being aware of how we can keep ourselves safe, knowing what "a risk" looks like. Safeguarding is made up of myriads of everyday glances, at a door, at a picture, at a trailing cable, at a person's demeanour, at a text, at the hands of a child. Safeguarding is about caring for one another, making sure our churches are safe spaces for everyone, whatever their life's experiences have been, whatever their age.

It is so important that we all know that we have a responsibility to speak up. It might be something we see or hear or just feel isn't right; get in touch. It may be a small piece of a jigsaw which we have been trying to piece together with other agencies. There have been so many cases in the news recently which highlight the importance of people talking to each other and the tragic consequences of inaction.

If you are able, please take time to watch some of the recent webinars on the Methodist website which have covered different topics which are so relevant to our churches; Dementia, Domestic Abuse and Hearing the Voices of Survivors. They are a powerful and challenging resource.

Each month there is a new Safeguarding Newsletter distributed with information and events detailed on it. It is always available on the East Anglia District website and is emailed out as well. If you would like to be on the mailing list for this, please email me. The newsletter and website contain details of the online forums which anyone can sign up for. The Forum is a great opportunity to keep up to date, meet others with a safeguarding interest or role and get answers to those niggling questions!

### Safeguarding Forum – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm

Please register for the Forum here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsD-uprjkuE9WfTcbcCUOTDVY3sib6C2BK>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### Reflect and Respond – Leaders' Guide

The Reflect and Respond Leaders' Guide has now been added to the [Survivor Resources](#) page of the website.

Whether or not you are a survivor of abuse, exploring the material in the Reflect and Respond study guide with your Methodist Church house group or Bible study group will take courage. Reflect and Respond considers the calling of the Methodist Church: to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship through worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism, from the perspective of survivors of different forms of abuse.

These guidance notes aim to offer you as house/Bible group leaders a deeper understanding of the complexity of the issues raised by Reflect and Respond and to give you the confidence to facilitate the course effectively

[Download Reflect and Respond Leaders Guide \(Pdf\)](#)

## Vivien Almond Interview with Premier Radio



Many of you will have met Vivien Almond, one of our trainers in the District through online training sessions; as part of the publicity around the recent Survivors' webinars, Vivien, from the Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group (MSAG) and member of the Safeguarding Committee, was interviewed by Premier Radio:

*"It was like crying in the wilderness, because that's what all those guys felt like, we were there. We were talking, but nobody was listening. We were totally on our own. Suddenly someone was saying, 'Ok, I'll listen and we want to make it different.' They listened, they believed us. They wanted to make it different and wanted to make change."*

Read the full article: [Abuse survivors help Methodist Church improve safeguarding resources \(premierchristian.news\)](https://premierchristian.news)

## Safeguarding for Trustees



social care  
institute for excellence

SCIE have produced a webinar aimed at trustees of faith-based organisations which would be really useful to tell your Church Council members about. It is called ***Safeguarding for trustees in faith-based organisations*** and

was recorded in November 2020 (90 min webinar) and you can view it [here](#)

## The Theology of Safeguarding

As well as our own local Conference in September last year, earlier in the year, we advertised a Regional Safeguarding Conference which was organized by the Yorkshire North and East, Yorkshire West, Sheffield, Darlington, and Newcastle Districts. The presentations from this conference are now available:

How does safeguarding influence who we are as God's people?

**All are Welcome** (led by Tim Carter)

**Power in the Church** (led by Revd Helen Cameron)

**Forgiveness** (led by Revd Leslie Newton)

You can watch the video recording and download the slide presentation and notes from the three sessions [here](#)

## Modern Slavery



Home Office

The Home Office has published a statistical bulletin providing a summary and breakdown of the number of potential victims of modern slavery. Figures show: 12,727 potential victims of modern slavery were referred in 2021; 43% (5,468) of referrals claimed exploitation as children; child potential victims were most often referred for criminal exploitation 49%; 2,689) – in 2020 the increase in the identification of 'county lines' cases partially drove the increase in referrals for children within the criminal exploitation category.

Read the statistical briefing: [Modern slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary, 2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2021)