

## Safeguarding for Warm Spaces

There are Methodist churches across the country opening warm spaces to help with the cost of living crisis. The Connexional Safeguarding team has put together a guidance document, a proforma policy and a proforma risk assessment:

- 1) [Safeguarding Guidance for Warm Spaces](#)
- 2) [A Proforma Safeguarding Policy for a Warm Space.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](#) and a
- 3) [A Proforma Safeguarding Risk Assessment for a Warm Space](#)

These documents are on the [Respond to the energy crisis this winter \(methodist.org.uk\)](#) page of the Church's website, in the 'What about Safeguarding?' section. DSOs will need to be aware of this guidance as local churches are being encouraged to share the risk assessments with DSO and ask for advice.

Welcome to February!

We are excited to be running the first pilot of the new Advanced Module 2023 training at North Walsham on February 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be the new material which is then used for face to face and online AM training from April when it is officially launched. We are really grateful to those of you who are going to be part of this and we're hoping it all goes smoothly!

Dates for both Foundation and Advanced Module are being added to the website all the time, do book from there.

If you are a trainer planning a training session, you need to contact [Lynne](#) who will add the bookings to the website.

With best wishes,

*Jane*

## Safer Internet Day - 7 February 2023

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February is Safer Internet Day and this year's theme is respect and healthy relationships online. There are a wealth of resources online to support organisations with an interest in safeguarding. Childnet.com has useful advice on how to report concerning behaviour online: [How to make a report | Childnet](#)

## 2023 Obscene and Offensive Video/Phone Calls

We have been alerted to the following situation.

There have been reports, raised initially by the Anglicans, of someone with a fetish targeting female church members using sexual language or sending sexualised videos: During the months of November and December 2022, female church officers have received obscene, malicious, and offensive phone/video calls. Where appropriate the necessary reports have been made to the respective police force.

If any person should receive a similar phone/video call it is advised that the following course of action is taken:

- Do not engage in any conversation as soon as it is evident, or you recognise the call is obscene, and offensive.
- **Do not agree to meet the caller if this is requested.**
- Note and record the time, date and any details of the caller's number.
- Note any distinctive accent or description if it is a video call, and, if safe, consider taking a screen shot. Look for any identifying marks or items (ie. tattoo's, emblems on clothing; distinctive jewellery, etc)
- Report the incident to police and obtain an incident/crime number.
- Refer the matter to the DSO.
- Consider calling your phone company and asking for their nuisance or malicious calls team. If the number is withheld, ask the company to identify the callers number.
- Consider obtaining an itemised bill from your service provider/phone company.

If you require any further information, please contact [Jane](#).