

The Methodist Church

East Anglia District

The Methodist Church commissioned a Past Cases Review in 2011 because it had identified the need to review past child protection cases as part of its commitment to safeguarding. As a result of the Past Cases Review, the Methodist Church published ***Courage, Cost and Hope, The Report on the Past Cases Review 2013-2015.***

Speaking on May 29th, 2015, on behalf of the Church, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference and General Secretary the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins issued a full and unreserved apology to survivors and victims of abuse in response to the report:

"On behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain I want to express an unreserved apology for the failure of its current and earlier processes fully to protect children, young people and adults from physical and sexual abuse inflicted by some ministers in Full Connexion and members of the Methodist Church. That abuse has been inflicted by some Methodists on children, young people and adults is and will remain a deep source of grief and shame to the Church.

"We have not always listened properly to those abused or cared for them, and this is deeply regrettable. In respect of these things we have, as a Christian Church, clearly failed to live in ways that glorify God and honour Christ.

"I am certain that the Methodist Conference will want to resolve to do all in its power to improve its systems to protect children, young people and adults from abuse within the life of the Church and on Church premises, and to review them diligently on a regular basis."

Although it's past, it's present...

The report came with 23 recommendations relating to improving practice, at the 2016 Methodist Conference a progress report was produced, ***One Year On.***

At the Methodist Conference of 2017 a report was shared from the Past Case Review Implementation Group that described progress on all areas and completion of most. the Conference passed a resolution that the existing Safeguarding Committee, which oversees safeguarding across the Connexion, would now have a wider brief for safeguarding matters across the church so the momentum could be maintained.

So what has changed?

1. Promotion of the 10 Lessons learnt from the Past Cases Review across the church
2. Listening to survivors and setting up a Reference Group and access to counselling services
3. Complete revision of our approach to risk assessments and Safeguarding Contracts
4. Completely revised Safeguarding procedures and guidelines
5. Completely re-written mandatory Safeguarding training and inclusion of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders
6. Supervision of District Safeguarding Officers begin brought in and increase in DSO hours in most districts
7. Supervision of ministers scheme and Code of Conduct for ministers

Although the Past Cases Review process is complete, concerns can, of course, be raised at any time. If you need any support, contact your District Safeguarding Officer, Jane Gay on 07787225230 or email east.safeguarding@gmail.com

The Past Cases Review: Where are we now?

