

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

District Safeguarding Policy.

As the people of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church, we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, emotional and sexual abuse, or neglect of children and young people.

In the light of this the District Synod:

- 1 Affirms the role and function of the District Safeguarding Officer, District Safeguarding Advisors' Group, the District Children's Secretary, the District Youth and Community Secretary and the Training Officer as they seek to help churches and circuits develop and monitor **Safeguarding** policy,
- 2 requires the Lay employment sub-committee to ensure churches and circuits implement S.O. 010(2) and consult the District Safeguarding Advisors' Group if necessary,
- 3 expects all Church Councils and Circuit Meetings to comply with all Methodist legislation and consequent good practice, with particular regard to S.O. 010 concerning the holding of office, duty or responsibility,
- 4 expects each circuit to report every three years to the District Council through the District Safeguarding Officer on their implementation and development of **Safeguarding**,
- 5 requires all District work with Children and Young People to implement the policy and practice of **Safeguarding**,
- 6 expects Church Councils to become familiar with the recommendations of **The Church and Sex Offenders report** to the 2000 Methodist Conference, in particular with paragraph 7a (commentary on the Methodist Church's current **Safeguarding** procedures) and **7b (procedures necessary for an offender to be involved in a church community)**,
- 7 requires the District Council to discuss annually the updating, monitoring and training for **Safeguarding** throughout the District, and to make recommendations,
- 8 requires all members of Synod, the District Council and representatives to Conference to be made aware of the conditions of undertaking work on behalf of the Methodist Church as outlined in **Safeguarding Children and Young People – A Policy for Good Practice in the care of Children and Young People, p 28. April 2003**,
- 9 encourages and supports the appointment of a District Safeguarding Officer to implement and develop policy,

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

- 10 **recognises the current development of a joint Methodist and Anglican Church Policy to Safeguard Vulnerable Adults and supports the prospective implementation in all churches. It acknowledges its importance and encourages churches to act at all times to seek to safeguard vulnerable adults in the church community.**

The District Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Margaret Reynolds who may be consulted for all child protection/sex offender enquiries. A 24 hour helpline is available with support from Action for Children Tel 01952 820473 or 07800 719639.