

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults “Regulated Activities” Policy for Wesley Methodist Church

March 2015

Endorsed by The Methodist Church and The Church of England

Appendix 1: will be added to this policy and put before Church Council in Jan 2018 for approval

Presented to Church Council for endorsement March 2015
Reviewed by Church Council February 2017

Statement of Safeguarding and Well-Being Principles

Every person has a value and dignity that comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by god's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with¹ the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will keep appropriate records in line with Safeguarding requirements of the Methodist Church and adhere to the Data Protection Act 2003

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

¹ Or membership of (PVG scheme Scotland)

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Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults “Regulated Activities” Policy for Wesley Methodist Church

This policy was agreed at a church Council held on.....

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity, which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Wesley Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable as a result of needing “Regulated Activities”, and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

Wesley Methodist Church recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable as a result of requiring “Regulated Activities”. It is intended to be a dynamic policy and to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Wesley Methodist Church fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space 2007*:

‘As the people 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’.

Wesley Methodist Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and adults (who require “Regulated Activities”) and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

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Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Wesley Methodist Church affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Wesley Methodist Church appoints Judy Taylor both as Church Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator and Church Safeguarding Adults Representative and supports her in the role which is to:

- i. support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles
- ii. provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii. liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Co-ordinators
- iv. promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of circuit ministers
- v. to ensure Safeguarding training is kept up to date in line with Methodist guidelines
- vi. to ensure the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure are reviewed annually.

a) Purpose

The purposes of this Safeguarding and Well –Being policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for adults engaged in activities, which are deemed to make them vulnerable in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

b) Good Practice

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We believe good practice means that:

- i. All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii. Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless it is for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii. The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and adults who require "Regulated Activities, and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv. Any church-organised transport of children or adults with needs that leave them vulnerable will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate. Copies of MOT and Driving Licenses will be held by:
- v. Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks that enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.
- vi. The inclusion of sex offenders in worship will be monitored in line with the "Trust Contract"
- vii. Church Council will ensure that within the employer team there are personnel who are suitability qualification in Safer Recruitment and follow the 10 steps to safer recruitment document.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, within the first year of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc.) and each worker will have an annual review conducted by a named member of the Church Council and another worker within the Organisation.

d) Pastoral visitors

In terms of safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment.

e) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable

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adults

A leaflet will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with vulnerable adults outlining good practice and systems. The leaflet will be reviewed annually with this policy [Church Councils may produce their own material or use appropriate Connexional leaflets].¹

f) Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

g) Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events. Notification of the event will be given to Church Council Secretary.

h) Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement [which should include Safeguarding Form E],² will be given a copy of this policy and the leaflet. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings.³

i) Complaints procedure

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council and who is currently Rev Julia Monaghan. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to Rev. Julia Monaghan who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the Local Complaints Officer who is Rev Bryan Tolhurst.

j) Whistle blowing

All organisations within the church should have appropriate whistle blowing procedures. Volunteers and members of the congregation should be encouraged to acknowledge their individual responsibility to bring matters of concern to the Minister, Superintendent Minister or Church Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator.

k) Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. The date of the next review is March 2016

¹ These have yet to be produced for vulnerable adults

² To be found in Recruiting Safely in the Methodist Church 2010

³ Such as the code of practice or the pocket guide.

I) Key concepts and definitions

- i. **Vulnerable Adult/Activity:** Changes have been made to the way the term Vulnerable Adult is used. It is the activity being undertaken that now denotes if an adult is vulnerable. These activities are referred to as "Regulated Activities".
- ii. **Safeguarding and protecting children and adults (in receipt of Regulated Activities)** from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii. **Adult/child protection** is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv. Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or a child. It may be an inflection of harm or a failure to prevent harm.
- v. Internet/Mobile Phone abuse – there should be no difference from first-hand contact from that of 'e-abuse' or Mobile Phone abuse. Illegal images or Internet bullying and grooming are damaging to those involved and those who view them may damage or offend against others.

Amended added after a Meeting of Church Council October 2015

Begging

- ❖ It is not the practice of Leigh Wesley Methodist Church to give money to those who call into the premises requesting financial help. Food and drink however is provided at the church's discretion and information regarding resources that provided assistance is readily available.

Dated

Signed Chair of Church Council

Appendix 1: Prevent

It is the duty of all who work with vulnerable adults, young people, and children to be aware of Prevent.

Definitions under the PREVENT category

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

There are many behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

- ✓ Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists
- ✓ Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- ✓ Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- ✓ Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- ✓ Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- ✓ Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- ✓ Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- ✓ Using insulting or derogatory names for another group.
- ✓ Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person

Making a Report

Action: An employee/volunteer may have concerns because of:

- A direct disclosure
- An observation
- An expression of concern or complaint made by another person

If you suspect that a **child/adult is at immediate risk or is actually engaged in the planning or implementing of an act of terrorism,** take the following course of action immediately:

- ✓ Contact the Responsible Person for your Church/Minister in Charge/and consider referral to Police on 999

You will need to give factual and accurate information in exactly the same manner as you would for any other safeguarding referral.