

Update of Foundation Module Safeguarding Training

MC/24/11

Date of meeting	29-30 January 2024
Contact name and details	Christine Kennedy, Safeguarding Training Lead kennedyc@methodistchurch.org.uk Tim Carter, Director of Safeguarding cartert@methodistchurch.org.uk
Action required	For approval
Resolution	11/1. The Council receives the report. 11/2. The Council approves the updated training module.

Summary of content

Subject of aims	Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults
Main points	<p>Everyone in a role for which attendance at Foundation Module Safeguarding Training is mandatory is required to refresh their training every four years. The Safeguarding Committee has agreed that the Foundation Module training materials should be updated every four years to ensure that they are up to date and no one is expected to attend exactly the same training twice. The current Foundation Module is the 2020 Edition and is therefore due to be updated in 2024.</p> <p>Recent developments within safeguarding and in the church will be taken into account, including resources from the Theology of Safeguarding report and the development of new ways of being church.</p>
Background context and relevant documents (with function)	<p>The documents attached, which will be circulated electronically to the Council, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outline of the PowerPoint materials for face-to-face training. • Handbook/Workbook - Printed document providing key explanations and background. Also for use during taught sessions
Consultations	District Safeguarding Officers, a member of the Survivors' Reference Group. The Church of England Training Lead is included in the group working on the resources. Additional input on EDI issues, NPNP and Pioneers.

Summary of impact

Wider connexional	The ongoing safety of all members and users of the church
External, including ecumenical	Links with other denominations, especially the Church of England, which recognises the Methodist Foundation Module Training as equivalent to their own Foundation Module.

Update of Foundation Module Safeguarding Training

Introduction

1. Everyone in a role for which attendance at Foundation Module Safeguarding Training is mandatory is required to refresh their training every four years. These roles include:
 - All ministers, unless they have a formal Exemption
 - local preachers and worship leaders
 - Safeguarding Officers and Trainers
 - Everyone in paid employment or voluntary roles which include direct work or pastoral responsibility within the Methodist Church, for children, young people or vulnerable adults.
 - Church and Circuit Stewards
 - District staff especially policy committee members, complaints and discipline mediators
 - Monitoring and Support group members (for Safeguarding Contracts)
 - Young Leaders (ages 16-18)
2. The requirement to renew safeguarding training every four years only applies to the highest level of training undertaken by an individual. Where the Foundation and Advanced Modules are required, following attendance at both courses, only a repeat of the Advanced Module will be necessary in future years.
3. This change was agreed by the Methodist Council and the Safeguarding Committee in 2019. Therefore there will be a substantial reduction in the overall numbers of people required to attend Foundation Module training. This will be helpful, as it becomes ever more challenging to recruit new Foundation Module trainers.
4. For this reason, the Safeguarding Committee agreed, at its meeting in July 2023, that the new 2024 Edition of the training will offer an online-only version, as an option for those who cannot access a face-to-face or Zoom session, for whatever reason.
5. The Safeguarding Committee agreed that the Foundation Module training materials should be updated every four years to ensure that they are up to date and no one is expected to attend exactly the same training twice. The current Foundation Module is the 2020 Edition and is therefore due to be updated in 2024. If there is a significant change in legislation during the following four years, additional details will be shared by trainers.
6. The provision of Foundation Module training sessions is primarily a circuit responsibility, although practice varies across the Connexion, but all trainers must attend a Train the Trainers session led by Learning Network staff and District Safeguarding Officers before they are approved to deliver the training.

Development of Foundation Module (2024) Edition

7. A group has been working on updating the current Foundation Module materials since early summer 2023. This group includes members of the Connexional Safeguarding Team, Learning Network staff, District Safeguarding Officers and a member of the Survivors' Reference Group. It is planned that the resources will be published and ready for delivery after Easter 2024; this timeframe has been agreed in liaison with the Communications Team.
8. The materials are being reviewed to take into account:
 - Changes in legislation
 - Developments within the church eg Pioneers, New Places for New People and working towards a fully inclusive Methodist ChurchAs noted above, the materials will, for the first time include an online-only version for those who cannot access a face-to-face session or the Zoom version.

Attachments

9. Two draft documents are included with this Training Report. They are:
 - PowerPoint (outline) for face-to-face and Zoom training. This document will include a large number of embedded videos (yet to be finalised) which will be developed in conjunction with the Digital Engagement Team. This document is linked to the Workbook.
 - Handbook/Workbook - Printed document (this will also be available online in pdf format) in two parts. Firstly this provides key safeguarding explanations and background information as well as

links to online resources. The second section is the interactive Workbook - for use during the training sessions.

It is hoped that having just one printed document will be cheaper, streamline the preparation process for trainers and ensure that participants engage with their Handbook.

10. Trainers' Notes will also be provided to those who have completed a 'Train the Trainers' session, to ensure consistency of delivery and content. These are currently under development and will be available for Trainers online, as their content may be updated in line with ongoing safeguarding developments.
11. The new online version will be aligned with the content of the face-to-face materials and will be uploaded to the Methodist Church in BritainX platform (MCBX) once the content of the face-to-face version has been finalised.

Proposal

12. The Council is asked to approve the drafts of the new Foundation Module training materials, to enable ongoing liaison with the Digital Engagement and Commissioning Teams towards publication by April 2024.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 11/1. The Council receives the report.**
- 11/2. The Council approves the updated training module.**