

# The Safeguarding Committee

MC/23/42

Date of meeting	25-27 March 2023
Contact name and details	Nicola Sylvester, Safeguarding Policy Manager. sylvestern@methodistchurch.org.uk
Action required	For approval and decision
Resolutions	42/1. The Council receives the report. 42/2. The Council approves the proposal to convene a policy sub-group within the Safeguarding Committee.

## Summary of content

Subject of aims	To set out proposals for a policy sub-committee within the Safeguarding Committee.
Main points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The case outlining the need for the amendments</li><li>▪ A summary of the key changes</li></ul>
Background context and relevant documents (with function)	The need to rationalise the volume of the Church's safeguarding documentation so that it supports rather than hinders the aim to be a safe place for all.
Consultations	This review takes place following consultation with key stakeholders including the Safeguarding Committee and Casework Supervisors and Secretary of Conference.

## Summary of impact

Standing Orders	Standing Order 232 – changes not required
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## 1. Introduction

This paper presents the case for a small and dedicated policy sub-group formed by members of the Safeguarding Committee (SGC).

## 2. Background

Standing Order 232 outlines the formation of the SGC as annually appointed by The Methodist Council. The committee members will include *'at least five persons who, by virtue of their experience, will in judgement of the Council command wide respect'* (ii). Therefore, the experience and expertise of committee members is commensurate with the task of overseeing the commissioning of risk assessments, convening safeguarding panels to evaluate identified risks and the necessary actions to mitigate those risks, and giving direction and offering guidance in respect of matters in relation to the Church's approach to safeguarding.

## 3. The role of the SGC in reviewing the effectiveness of the church's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

- 3.1 Standing Order 232 describes, among a list of duties, being available to consult with Connexional Team members with responsibility for the Church's policy, to promote effective safeguarding and, to make recommendations to the Methodist Council in response to developments in safeguarding practice (para. 2: v; vi; and, vii).
- 3.2 In practice, this has meant the Safeguarding Policy Manager presenting proposed changes to the SGC which in turn, scrutinises and amends where necessary. Subject to the changes being made, the ratified policy is then presented to the Methodist Council for approval before it is shared more widely across the Connexion.
4. The purpose of this report is to suggest that a smaller group of committee members should convene to consider policy development and progress. Given the fact that members are appointed by the Council and have the relevant expertise and skill to review and agree changes to the Church's policy and procedures, this is a logical step and prevents unnecessary delay in enacting important practice changes.
- 4.1 The Church's safeguarding policy procedures are reviewed every six months and should any amendments be required, they are made during the review cycle. Therefore, it would require two (at most) additional meetings should they be necessary.
- 4.2 Should any policy changes require changes to Standing Orders, these would be presented to the Conference by the Committee.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**42/1. The Council receives the report.**

**42/2. The Council approves the proposal to convene a policy sub-group within the Safeguarding Committee.**