

Update of Advanced Module Safeguarding Training

MC/23/10

Date of meeting	25-26 January 2023
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	10/1. The Council receives the report.

Summary of content

Subject of aims	Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults
Main points	In response to the pandemic our core safeguarding training was made available online. The Advanced Module 2023 will update and align the face-to-face and online resources. Recent developments within safeguarding and the church will be taken into account, including resources from the Theology of Safeguarding report to the Methodist Conference.
Background context and relevant documents (with function)	Those who are required to attend Advanced Module Safeguarding training have to do so every 4 years. The current edition was launched in 2019. The Safeguarding Committee agreed that the materials should be updated every 4 years. Documents circulated electronically to the Council are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint for face-to-face training. • Handbook Printed document providing key explanations and background. • Workbook Printed document for use during the training sessions
Consultations	Learning Network staff, 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 but has been off work recently. They will be included in further developments if possible.)

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 Methodist Advanced Module Training as equivalent to their Leadership Module. The reputation of the whole church to take safeguarding seriously and act appropriately.

Update of Advanced Module Safeguarding Training

Introduction

1. Everyone in a role for which attendance at Advanced 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 leadership within the Methodist Church, involving direct work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.
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. This change was agreed by the Methodist Council and the Safeguarding Committee in 2019.
3. The Safeguarding Committee agreed that the Advanced Module training materials should be updated every four years to ensure that they are up-to-date and that no one was expected to attend exactly the same training twice. If there is a significant change in legislation during the four years, additional details will be shared by trainers. The current Advanced Module is the 2019 Edition and is therefore due to be updated in 2023.
4. In 2020, in response to the constraints of the pandemic, an online version of the training materials was developed, located on the TheologyX platform. This follows the same general topics as the face-to-face version whilst using a range of videos and interactive resources. Face-to-face Advanced Module training has gradually returned so that currently most Districts offer a combination of face-to-face and online training which had increased the training course capacity and accessibility of those requiring it.
5. The provision of Advanced Module training sessions is a District responsibility and practice varies across the Connexion, but in most Districts the training is led by Learning Network staff and District Safeguarding Officers, supported by trained volunteers.
6. **Development of Advanced Module (2023) Edition**
Following approval by the Safeguarding Committee, a group has been working on updating the current Advanced Module materials since early summer 2022. 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 2023; this timeframe has been agreed in liaison with the Communications Team.
7. The materials are being reviewed to take into account:
 - Changes in legislation
 - Recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)
 - Developments within the church eg Pioneers and New Places for New People and working towards a fully inclusive Methodist Church
 - Inclusion of resources from the Theology of Safeguarding, in line with Resolution 27/3 of the 2021 Methodist Conference.
8. In addition, it was decided to align the materials of the face-to-face and online versions and include a reminder of the basic content of the Foundation Module, which may last have been completed many years ago.
9. **Attachments**
Three draft documents will be circulated electronically to the Council. They are:
 - **PowerPoint for face-to-face 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. A short summary of the intended content is included on the relevant slide. *This document should be viewed alongside the Workbook.*
 - **Workbook** Printed document (this will also be available online in pdf format) for use during the training sessions.

- **Handbook** Printed document (this will also be available online in pdf format) providing key explanations and background information as well as links to online resources.
10. A document for participants to prepare for their training is currently under development. This will set the context for their learning and remind participants of key elements from the Foundation Module.
 11. Trainers' Notes will also be provided to those who have completed the Trainers' training, 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 developments in this field.
 12. The revised online version will be aligned with the content of the face-to-face materials which will be uploaded to the new Methodist Church in BritainX platform (MCBX) once the content of the face-to-face version has been finalised.
 13. **Conclusion**
A range of training resources is being developed so that the new Advanced Module 2023 can be rolled out after Easter 2023. This will enable the church to continue to review and update a central part of its core safeguarding training programme. It will enable the Methodist Church to continue its commitment to providing up-to-date, relevant and essential preparation to enable the cultural change in respect of safeguarding envisaged by the *Courage Cost and Hope* report (Past Cases Review 2015).

*****RESOLUTION**

- 10/1. **The Council receives the report.**