

2020 Edition

# SAFEGUARDING

## Creating Safer Space

Workbook



Name:

Role(s):

**Foundation Module**  
2020 Edition

The **Methodist** Church 



# **CREATING SAFER SPACE**

## **Foundation Module: Workbook**

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## Vulnerable adults

A vulnerable adult is defined as “Any adult aged 18 or over (16 or over in Scotland) who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation.”

**What can make an adult vulnerable to harm? Please write your answer below.**

**Note:** Not all churches will have children and young people, but there are adults who may be vulnerable in every single church.



## 'Somewhere' and 'Elsewhere' Methodist Church – Good Practice

Read through this scenario and note down any issues that concern you.

'Somewhere' Methodist Church (example A)	Issues
<p>A church steward is talking through his report on church activity at the synod meeting:</p> <p>“'Somewhere' Methodist Church has a small but dedicated congregation and, as I always say, volunteers are so hard to come by, we can't afford to be choosy, or offend the ones we've got! To be honest I am proud of my congregation's efforts.</p> <p>“Take the Browne sisters, Judy and Elaine. They work miracles with the youth club. They just open the hall and the kids come in off the streets, kids whose parents don't even seem to care where they are. I go along when I can, usually about once a month and I was so impressed last time as Judy had been held up so Elaine opened up by herself. Some of the kids helped her set up. They got equipment out of the overflowing cupboard – and some of it was really heavy. Judy arrived later looking very frazzled, she had been to pick up some kids from the group who couldn't get there otherwise, and they had been very loud in the car!</p>	



“And we’re very ‘with it’ at ‘Somewhere’ Methodist Church. Our youth leaders are on Facebook. They tell me they are friends with most of the young people – great news! Not that I really understand what that means, except that the youth leaders are able help the youngsters any time of the day or night, and we have some great photos on our noticeboard.

“I also want to let you know about some brilliant work we have started doing with the local employment trust, who find work placements for people who are just out of prison. They have matched us with a Mrs Williams, who will be helping out with the tea and coffee after church every week. I am sure you will agree an extra pair of hands will be very welcome!

“And finally there is Florence – where would we be without the beautiful flowers she arranges in church each week? Florence is so dedicated to our church that when she went to stay with her daughter for a few weeks she arranged for two or three of her neighbours to have the church key and pop in with the flowers. So thoughtful of her.

“So as you see things are going well - thanks to everyone’s commitment.”

**Read through the scenario and note down any issues that concern you.**

<b>‘Elsewhere’ Methodist Church (example B)</b>	<b>Issues</b>
<p>A message is read out during the service:</p> <p>“Welcome everyone to ‘Elsewhere’ Methodist Church, It is lovely to see some new faces tonight! We may have a small congregation, but I know we can ‘keep the show on the road’. I am so proud of how everyone pulls together and pitches in.</p> <p>“There’s our community lunch club. We have so many wonderful people coming along every week. The social services people bring some of their clients along and others just turn up, so we need to find lots of extra hands! It’s amazing how our people make such hearty homemade food in that tired kitchen of ours – I have no idea how they make such feasts in there!</p> <p>“And love is in the air! Brian and Mary have announced their engagement this week. Brian is our longest serving volunteer and he met the women of his dreams at our humble lunch club! Although Mary did play hard to get at first! She is one of our new visitors with social services. She doesn’t say much, but Brian’s hugs seem to have won the day! I am sure you will extend your warmest wishes to Mary. We are so pleased that they found love. Lovely that.</p>	



“Then we have a small Sunday school which Mrs White runs almost single-handedly. And if the children ever want a chat, she finds a quiet space for them to talk in confidence – that’s so important these days. In fact, the Sunday school room is ideal for quiet chats as it only has one window, which looks out onto a brick wall, and the door has no window, so no one can interrupt easily. I have no idea how many children have been through Sunday school in Mrs White’s time, a hundred or so I would guess.

“Although we have struggled with finances over the past few years, it’s all getting a lot easier now that we have started letting out the hall. There are quite a few groups coming in now – dance classes, flower-arranging clubs, music groups – the list is endless. And it’s all achieved without creating much extra work. I’ve taken on managing all this myself, and I’ve kept it really simple. There are no complicated forms, they just give me the money and I record it in the book – job done!

“Now, before I finish, we’ve had this email from the district safeguarding officer, which I promised to read out. It explains what we should do if someone tells us they have been abused in the past. Well, that’s just political correctness gone mad! We don’t have to worry about that sort of thing here. We all know each other so well, I am sure we would know if anything were going on. But the information’s in the back if you want it.

“So as you see things are going well - thanks to everyone’s commitment.”

## Recognising: barriers to disclosing abuse

What might stop individuals from disclosing abuse? Consider why children and adults might not feel able to disclose and write your answers below.





## Respond: what stops us doing it well?

### 1. What might stop us as individuals from responding well?



### 2. What might stop us as the Methodist Church from responding well?



### 3. What might the impact be on the person who has experienced abuse if an individual or local church doesn't respond well?



### 4. What might the impact be on the wider community if an individual or local church doesn't respond well?





## Case Studies

Take a minute to read the case studies below and answer the questions.

What do you **RECOGNISE** that causes concern?



A large empty rectangular box for writing an answer to the question 'What do you RECOGNISE that causes concern?'. The box contains a small icon of a document with a pencil in the top-left corner.

How would you **RESPOND** to your concern?



A large empty rectangular box for writing an answer to the question 'How would you RESPOND to your concern?'. The box contains a small icon of a document with a pencil in the top-left corner.

What would you **RECORD**?



A large empty rectangular box for writing an answer to the question 'What would you RECORD?'. The box contains a small icon of a document with a pencil in the top-left corner.

To whom would you **REFER** this?



A large empty rectangular box for writing an answer to the question 'To whom would you REFER this?'. The box contains a small icon of a document with a pencil in the top-left corner.

## Case Studies

### 1. Anna

You are a pastoral visitor, and pop in to see Anna who hasn't been to church for a few weeks. Anna is very distressed because she has heard that her niece (now eight years old) has gone to stay with her grandparents, Mark and Claire, for a few weeks while her mum's in hospital. Anna is worried and explains that when she was little Mark sexually abused her. She worries the same will happen to her niece. However she has never told anyone and is scared of what would happen to the family if she did.

### 2. Tasha

You are a youth club worker. One day Gabrielle, a youth club volunteer talks to you with concerns about Tasha (aged 14), who attends youth club regularly. Gabrielle tells you that Tasha has been messaging her at all hours of the day and night mostly talking about how unhappy she is at home. Tasha has hinted there is something she needs to say about her stepfather that she does not want anyone to know because it is too embarrassing, so she would like to text it. She wants Gabrielle to promise not to tell anyone else about it. Gabrielle asks you what she should do?

### 3. June and Sally

You are the pastoral visitor for mother and daughter June (aged 85) and Sally (aged 60). They have lived together for the past 60 years as Sally has mild learning difficulties and needs ongoing support. Two months ago, June broke her hip in an incident in the home, and on discharge from hospital was sent to a care home 100 miles away, which is close to her other daughter. This leaves Sally all alone. You visit Sally, who says that she is missing her mum terribly. She hasn't had any contact with her for weeks. She says she is feeling depressed and suicidal. You are very concerned and raise Sally's situation with the minister, who tells you that June's other daughter, Amy, has recently been in contact to say that June is frightened of Sally, who has physically abused her for many years. Now June doesn't want Sally to know where she is.

### 4. Edward

You are a worship leader and are having technical difficulties setting up a presentation. Joy, a church member, offers you her husband's laptop to use, and gets it from the car. Her husband, Edward, is a local preacher and is involved with the youth group. When the computer is loaded, you notice that his internet browser is open on a pornography site that concerns you. You quickly close it down, but later that night you start to worry that you should have done something else at the time.

### 5. James

James is due to be released from prison after serving a sentence for indecently assaulting his teenage daughter. In prison he became an active Christian. The prison chaplain contacts your minister to see whether James can hope to find a welcome at your church, and what arrangements



need to be put in place. You are a steward and parent of two teenage children. The minister shares information about James with you and, because of your position of trust within the church, asks you to become a member of a special group to monitor and support James.

### **6. Rebecca**

Rebecca is a local preacher. She is married to Peter and has two young children. Peter has a high-pressure, well-paid banking job that involves travelling away from home a lot. Consequently, Rebecca bears most of the childcare and homemaking responsibilities, and does not have any paid employment. Her church community is a very important source of support to her. You are Rebecca's pastoral visitor and she confides that she feels like a failure as a wife. This surprises you, as the children always seem so well cared for and happy. Rebecca explains that this is because Peter is really disappointed in how she is running the house and that she doesn't always manage to do everything the way it should be done. She feels depressed as she says it is all her fault for not doing better. She doesn't think the children know, but there have been lots of rows with raised voices and some smashed crockery. Rebecca shares with you that she is worried things might get worse.

### **7. Doris**

Doris is on the flower-arranging rota and goes into church most Saturday afternoons to arrange the flowers for the Sunday service. She arrives early one week to find that the doors are unlocked, and all the lights are on despite no one being in the building. She sees there is litter and mess all over the church building, which she assumes must have been left by the local dance school, which holds classes in the hall throughout the morning. Even the sanctuary and vestry have chairs, books and papers out of place. What do you think Doris should do?

### **8. Dawn**

You are a youth worker at your church and have organised a weekend away at a self-catering cottage in the country for members of the youth group. It's a small mixed group with eight young people and another leader. On the way to the cottage in the minibus, Dawn, aged 15, tells you that her new boyfriend, who has an expensive new car, did not want her to come on this weekend, but that she has been looking forward to it and spending some time with her mates. Dawn tells you, light-heartedly, that he's a bit older than her and that he was worried that she might get too friendly with a boy her own age in the group. Later that first night you see her withdraw from the group campfire and study her new, latest model phone intently for a few minutes. When she comes back, she looks pale and says she feels ill and needs to go home.

### **9. Rita**

You are a pastoral visitor and regularly visit Rita, an elderly lady who lives in sheltered accommodation. On one visit she breaks down and tells you that she is very unhappy as her daughter keeps shouting at her, telling her she is stupid. The daughter has changed the address where the bank sends Rita's statements and now she cannot keep track of her finances. You have no reason to suspect that Rita is exaggerating or that she has memory problems given your



previous conversations, so you express sympathy and ask what she would like you to do about it. She asks you not to tell anyone else and that she doesn't want anything to happen. She is scared that if anyone finds out it will jeopardise the relationship she has with her daughter, who is her only close relative.

### **10. Abdul**

It is well known that the Revd Franks has a close friendship with the Khan family: mother, father and 16-year-old son Abdul. He even lived with the family for a few months when he was unwell and depressed. He went back to live at the manse but continued to have regular contact with the Khan household. You are a church steward and youth club leader. Mrs Khan spoke to you after church this morning and said she is worried about her son, Abdul. He has changed over the last few months, from being happy and outgoing to becoming nervous and jumpy. You agree that Abdul seems different, in fact he rarely attends youth club now. Then Mrs Khan breaks down and cries. She tells you that Abdul hasn't been the same since the Revd Franks started coming to their home every evening to give Abdul 'coaching' sessions. He won't allow a family member to be present at the sessions, but Mrs Khan tells you that she overheard the Revd Franks telling Abdul that he [the Revd Franks] is God's anointed one and that once someone died because they didn't do what he told them. Mrs Khan is very concerned.

### **11. Grace**

Grace was an active member of the church for most of her life. She is 93 and has been resident in a care home for some months due to limited mobility. She is starting to become forgetful and her only son works in the Middle East. You have been Grace's pastoral visitor for several years and still visit her regularly. You are her 'emergency contact' and one day you are informed that she was in hospital overnight following a fall from her chair. You go to the care home to find her with extensive bruising, and you ask what happened. She is distressed and tells you that she fell because she leaned too far out of her chair. It was a hot day and she was very thirsty. She rang her call bell several times for someone to help her reach a glass of water that was just out of reach. No one came and she was desperate. You decide to tackle the officer in charge about the incident. You have to wait 20 minutes to see her. She tells you that they are short staffed. She dismisses Grace's account of events, commenting that Grace often doesn't remember things correctly as she is confused. When you return to say goodbye to Grace, she repeats the same account of her fall. She tells you that the staff in the home are not very kind to her and she wonders what she has done wrong.

### **12. Josh and Ben**

Josh and Ben (both aged 14) are best mates. They are inseparable at youth club and church, and are always seen playing on their phones or tablets. As a steward responsible for the church's audio-visual equipment, you approach Ben one day when he is on his own and ask if he and Josh would be interested in helping out with the AV, as you know they are interested in computers. Ben suddenly looks upset and says that he doesn't know about Josh, as he barely sees him anymore. He then goes on to confide that Josh spends all his time with a new online gaming friend, Nick. Josh has now given up all his other hobbies and even stopped going to youth club, which he loved.



Neither of the boys have ever met this new gaming friend, but it seems Nick has convinced Josh that Ben has been manipulating and controlling him. Now Josh will no longer speak to or see Ben. Ben is clearly devastated and doesn't know what to do. He suspects Josh is planning to meet Nick.

### **13. Kylie and Asher**

At the Christmas toy service you see one of the stewards asking sisters Kylie and Asher (aged nine and seven) if they have brought any gifts to be donated. They look down and shake their heads before walking off into the sanctuary. As you walk past, the steward mutters to you about those selfish kids not bringing toys for less fortunate children. He also comments on the lack of effort made in their appearance. He says "I mean, fancy letting them come to church in some tatty shorts and t-shirts. What are their parents thinking?" You know that Kylie and Asher's dad drops them off every Sunday and rumour has it that he goes to visit another woman while they are at church.

### **14. Desmond**

You have been giving Desmond, a neighbour, a lift to church most weeks for the past few years. One day, as you are driving Desmond home after church, he asks if your electricity is still working. You query why he would ask this, and he explains that he has been dealing with a very nice woman from the Electricity Board who has told him that there is a problem with the cables on your street. This problem can be sorted with the use of some expensive equipment, which needs to be hired by the residents. Desmond then tells you that he has transferred the necessary £1000 for his property, but he had been made aware that some of his other neighbours weren't able to afford it. He was told they might be embarrassed to discuss it, so he was considering covering their costs too. He admits that he has never met the nice woman from the Electricity Board as she has only been in touch via email. He reassures you that it is not a scam and, as a retired bank manager, he would know if it wasn't all above board.

### **15. Kim**

You are a door steward and part of the welcoming team at your church. One day a young woman, Kim, arrives for the first time. You welcome her and ask her to stay for coffee after the service, so that you can introduce her to some other church people. In broken English she timidly explains that she cannot stay as she must get back to work at the local nail bar after the service. As the service starts and you check outside for latecomers before taking your seat, you notice a man, whom you have never seen before, waiting on the edge of the church car park. As soon as the service is finished Kim jumps up and hurries out of the church before you can speak to her. As you look out of the doors to see if you can catch her to say goodbye, you see her walking away accompanied by the man.

## Creating Safer Space: Foundation Module 2020 Edition

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
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	<b>What have I learned?</b>	<b>What might I need to say / do?</b>
<b>Our Church Context</b>		
<b>Good Practice</b>		
<b>Recognise</b>		
<b>Respond</b>		
<b>Record &amp; Refer</b>		

