



produced by the District Safeguarding Group



NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING

Welcome to the first edition of *Think Children* for the new Northampton District. This newsletter is currently issued twice yearly at Synod and is a mechanism for reminding everyone of some of the current issues and contact points for information. We would welcome some feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to copy.

As we embark on this new District journey together, we felt it was time to reflect on our current Safeguarding procedures, policy and practices as a District. We plan to undertake a review between now and May Synod and would welcome comments. We are also wanting to offer training both to those who are in ministry in the district and those who have specialist roles in child protection in churches and circuits as front line workers or trainers / co-

ordinators.

The **District Safeguarding Group** continues to meet bi-monthly to enable a common approach to child protection within our District. The group is also a support group for Gill Crippen the District Safeguarding Officer. At present we are looking to supplement the group with some additional expertise from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and also someone working in the area of the statutory social services with children / vulnerable adults. We are also looking to appoint a Presbyterian or Deacon. If anyone is interested in being considered or knows of someone who might be suitable could they contact Paul Taylor in the first instance.

The **District Safeguarding Officer**, Gill Crippen, continues to work

flexibly for the District one day per week. Gill can be contacted via email: gill.crippen@tesco.net or via the 'phone 01451 820118 / 07967 362885. It would help to indicate how urgently a response is needed. Gill works half time for the Baptist Union (in the Southern Counties Baptist Association) as a Regional Minister in the area of Mission Strategy and also does some freelance child protection training for other organisations.

Gill lives in the Cotswolds in the Chipping Norton and Stow Circuit and is happy to travel to meet with Superintendents, Ministers, Church groups to discuss safeguarding and child protection issues.

We are planning a series of **training** initiatives in the area of child protection over the next year.

Gill delivers various training packages for ministerial and lay staff working in the relevant field. These training packages have a focus on mission and child protection and are inter-active, practical and can be tailor-made for individual situations. Gill will be contacting circuits between now and Christmas to discuss their training needs in the area of safeguarding and child protection. Gill would however welcome contact from those who have responsibilities in this area.

The **District Safeguarding Group** are available to provide you with information, advice and personal support regarding child protection within the church. The group can only be contacted via one of the following:

Gill Crippen (District Safeguarding Officer)

☎ 01451 820118 or 07967 362885

✉ gill.crippen@tesco.net

Paul Taylor (District Training & Development Officer)

☎ 01933 276771

✉ paul-taylor@uk.uumail.com

Revd Alison Tomlin (District Chair)

☎ 01604 630128

✉ altomlin@fish.co.uk



CRB DISCLOSURES

We are delighted that so many circuits have responded to the opportunity to hold CRB sessions for the filling in of CRB forms. There are still a considerable number of individuals who need to complete a CRB form who have not yet done so. We would like to encourage each circuit to prioritise this task so that we can move forward together with training and support rather than focusing on the task of 'checking' someone's suitability. Gill and Paul will be liaising with circuits to ensure arrangements are in place for concluding this essential task. Many thanks to all who have put in extra time and energy to seeing this process is completed.

PORTABILITY

The advice given in the Spring *Think Children* needs to be reiterated.

Whilst some workers will inform you they already have a CRB Disclosure from another source (due to work or a voluntary position) we would ask you to consider the following:

If you accept a CRB Disclosure from another source and it is not a clean Disclosure, ie. Contains no convictions, who is going to make the decision on both the information contained in the Disclosure and on the suitability of the person to perform the task in the church? The decisions on the Methodist Church Disclosures are made by the CAS with an appropriate appeals procedure.

A CRB Disclosure is 'attached' to the particular position indicated on the application form. A different post applied for might result in different information being available and possibly information being contained on the CRB Disclosure which might deem someone unsuitable to work with children.

Many other organisations who used to accept the portability of CRB Disclosures no longer do so.

METHODIST CHURCH HOUSE

In the first instance if you have a query about a safeguarding or child protection matter please contact Gill or Paul. Many of you will know that Pearl Luxon, Head of safeguarding & Child Protection in the Methodist Church, is changing the nature of her position and is anxious that the Districts deal with these issues in the first instance. Gill will be keeping Pearl informed of what is happening in our district and also seeking advice and support where appropriate.

If you do need to contact the safeguarding section at Methodist Church House, their contact details are: ☎ 020 7467 5216 (9.30-12.00pm only)

SEAT BELTS & THE LAW

Please make sure that you are aware of the new legislation in relation to seat belts and carrying children in cars. Halfords have a promotion on at present but if you are unsure of what the law actually says then check out the website: www.capt.org.uk (Child Accident Prevention Trust) which outlines the legislation very clearly. In a nutshell, if you are carrying a child under 12 who is also under 135cms (approx 4ft. 5ins) then they will need an appropriate car restraint. This will be a shock to some households who stopped using booster seats for children when they were 5 or 6. It is unclear how the law will be enforced but we need to encourage each other towards good practice which might mean some of us have to purchase new seats. Please make sure that when children are carried in cars in relation to church activities that appropriate restraints are in place. It would be good if we all put a note in our church newsletters. This is a child protection matter.

DISTRICT DAY CONFERENCE

We will be holding a day conference for Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinators and Circuit Safeguarding Trainers in the new year. We hope this will allow us to get to know each other a bit better and to share some of the recent changes to national and Methodist policy and procedures. We will be in touch with the relevant people, with the date and location, in the near future. Thanks.