

# THINK CHILDREN

produced by the District Safeguarding Group



The **Methodist Church**  
Northampton District

Spring 2007

Welcome to this edition of *Think Children*, our newsletter, issued twice yearly at Synod, which is a mechanism for reminding you of the current issues and contacts for information. We would welcome some feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to copy or contact Paul or I if you would like it emailed. As we journey together as a relatively new District we are still in the process of reflecting and reviewing our Safeguarding policies and procedures. We are still wanting feedback from circuits and are updating our database of the key personnel who have responsibility for Safeguarding. The slip at the bottom of this page is a request for information that we would be grateful if you could complete and return.

We have had one very successful training day this year for those who have a responsibility in the area of Safeguarding and we are planning some further training events for ministers in the autumn. With an updated database we hope that we might be able to offer more in the way of training and support - your suggestions are most welcome.

Gill Crippen

The **District Safeguarding Group** continues to meet bi-monthly to enable a common approach to child protection within our District and also as a support group for Gill Crippen, our District Safeguarding Officer. At present we are looking to supplement the group with some additional expertise and those who could represent different aspects in the area of Safeguarding. We are meeting in May to look at this aspect if you feel that you could offer the district some of your time or expertise please complete slip below.

If you have a **query about a safeguarding or child protection** matter please contact Gill in the first instance. 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 keep 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

We are delighted that so many circuits have progressed so well in obtaining **CRB disclosures**. However, there are still a considerable number of individuals have not yet applied for their CRB disclosure. 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 offer support in concluding this essential task. Many thanks to all who have put in extra time and energy to seeing this process is completed.

The **District Safeguarding Group** can be contacted via:

Gill Crippen (District Safeguarding Officer)

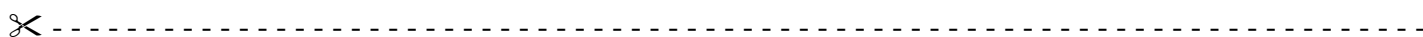
☎ 01451 820118 or 07967 362885    ✉ gill.crippen@tesco.net

Paul Taylor (District Training & Development Officer)

☎ 01933 276771    ✉ northamptontdo@btinternet.com

Revd Alison Tomlin (District Chair)

☎ 01604 630128    ✉ alison.tomlin@surefish.co.uk



## Can YOU help in offering safeguarding and child protection advice and support?

Churches contact the District Safeguarding Group wanting all kinds of advice and support. We are looking for people would be willing to support the group with some expertise in the broad area of safeguarding and child protection and could help churches as and when necessary. The sort of skills we are looking for include:

- those with child protection experience in an educational/medical/police setting
- those who have health care expertise
- those who have health & safety expertise/food hygiene/fire procedures/building safety expertise

If this is something you could help with please complete your details on the back and return to Gill Crippen.



# Vetting & Barring Scheme

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/vettingandbarring](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/vettingandbarring)

Introduced in the *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006*, which is a response to the Bichard Report (following Soham murders), the Vetting & Barring Scheme is due for implementation from Autumn 2008.

The overriding aim of this Scheme will be to help avoid harm, or risk of harm, to children and vulnerable adults. It aims to do this by preventing those who are deemed unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults from gaining access to them through their work by:

- providing employers with a more effective and streamlined vetting service for potential employees (paid and volunteers)
- barring unsuitable individuals from working, or seeking to work, with children and vulnerable adults at the earliest opportunity

This is an extension to CRB Disclosures and will require individuals to be registered to the Vetting & Barring before they can apply for roles with children and vulnerable adults. This registration will require the individual to have a CRB Enhanced Disclosure and once registered there will not be a need to apply for multiple CRB Disclosures. A system will be in place that bars individuals from the Scheme if they subsequently commit an offence and their employers will be informed. It will be a criminal offence for an individual to apply for a job with children or vulnerable adults if they have been barred from the Scheme and for an employer to take someone on if they are barred.

There will be two categories of activity:

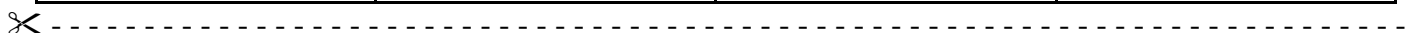
- Regulated Activity**
- activity where individuals have direct contact with children and vulnerable adults
  - fostering and childcare
  - some defined positions

Some domestic employment can also be regulated, eg. piano teacher, although this is not a requirement. If an individual is barred by the Scheme they will not be able to undertake any regulated activity.

- Controlled Activity**
- support worker in health, NHS, FE settings, etc
  - those working in specific roles in specified organisations, eg. local authorities
  - support workers in adult care settings

An individual barred by the Scheme can be employed in these activities with safeguards in place

	Duty of individual		Duty of employer	
	Bar applies	Individual must be checked	Engagement of barred individual	
<b>Regulated activity</b>				
employment/voluntary settings	✓	✓	✗	
domestic employment	✓	✗	✗	
<b>Controlled activity</b>				
employers	✗	✓	✓ (with safeguards)	



Name .....

Address .....

Telephone ..... Email .....

Area of expertise/skill .....

Availability .....

Please return to Gill Crippen: The Manse, Lansdowne, Bourton on the Water, Cheltenham GL54 2AT  
or email your details to [gill.crippen@tesco.net](mailto:gill.crippen@tesco.net)