**Safeguarding Newsletter**

**March 2020**

**IICSA**

The first day of hearings commenced on 16th March, however have now been suspended due to the COVID-19 concerns, for the most up to date information: <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/>

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# elcome to your March edition of the Safeguarding Newsletter where we bring you safeguarding news and updates.

A close up of a person

Description automatically generated

# COVID-19

We find ourselves in unique and challenging circumstances on the approach to Easter. The Government has called for ‘social distancing’, however, I prefer the phrase ‘physical distancing, social togetherness’.

As we increasingly move toward working from home, feelings of anxiety or isolation may appear, therefore it is important to remain in communication and support each other. Applications such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams can help greatly with this! *(Please remember to read their privacy policies, as they will be different to our own).*

Please continue to monitor the London District website for the latest updates.

<https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/coronavirus>

# SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

You will by now be aware we made the decision to postpone the Safeguarding Conference. This will hopefully take place later in the year subject to guidance received. We will publish more information when available.

# DISTRICT TRAINING

In line with physical distancing and as many of us go into isolation, we are looking at ways of bringing training into your home. We will be running a small ‘test’ event on the evening of Wednesday 15th April. Please check the Weekly Update for more information.

The Foundation Module has had amendments made and we have started to roll out facilitator training, in current circumstances, we are considering how best to continue this so everyone is equipped.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

The NCVO have created a number of 'KnowHow pages' which outline simple steps that voluntary organisations in England can take to ensure good safeguarding is embedded. There are a number of resources and case studies free to be utilised:

[https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding](http://briefing.safeguardinginschools.co.uk/lt.php?s=5b413e09116b964f2da6da7dc7ce7d0c&i=88A117A5A916)

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**Everyone’s Business**: Safeguarding for Trustees. A guide about the responsibilities of charity trustees and how to uphold them. Check it out **[HERE!](../OneDrive%20-%20LONDON%20DISTRICT%20OF%20THE%20METHODIST%20CHURCH/Policies/Everyone's%20Business%20Safeguarding%20For%20Trustees.pdf)**

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**Character References**

Have you been asked for a character reference? Read this first then contact your DSO. Click [**HERE**](../OneDrive%20-%20LONDON%20DISTRICT%20OF%20THE%20METHODIST%20CHURCH/Policies/Briefing%20Sheet%20on%20Character%20References.pdf)

**DDC Guidance**

Connexion have issued guidance on the changes to DDC. Click [**HERE**](../OneDrive%20-%20LONDON%20DISTRICT%20OF%20THE%20METHODIST%20CHURCH/DBS/DDC%20Guidance.docx)

Not sure whether to conduct a standard or enhanced check? DDC has information[**HERE**](https://www.ddc.uk.net/question/should-i-choose-a-basic-standard-or-enhanced-disclosure-for-my-employee/)or check out the policy[**HERE**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/7253/safer-recruitment-guidance-january-2018.pdf)

**NSPCC Podcast:**

Faith-Based Communities. Check it out [**HERE!**](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2019/september/podcast-faith-based-communities/)

# District Website

The District Website is continually being updated. We would love this to become a useful source of information for you all. If there is anything you would like to see please let the District Office know.

Check it out [**HERE!**](https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/safeguarding)

Did you know electric socket covers should never be used? Check out P.87 of the policy[**HERE**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/15539/safeguarding-policies-procedures-and-guidance-for-the-methodist-church-october-2019.pdf)**!**

**Privacy Notices**

For every person you hold a record on, please ensure you are issuing Privacy Notices. This not only ensures we are compliant with our policy, but it is also a legal requirement under Data Protection and GDPR! You can find the forms[**HERE**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding/policies-procedure-and-information/forms/)**!**

**Diary Dates**

Advanced Safeguarding Training at Barking Dagenham & Ilford (28/03/20), Enfield (04/04/20) and Richmond & Hounslow (02/05/20) has been postponed.

We will continue to review guidelines and respond accordingly.

08/04/20 – Online ‘test’ event