

Safeguarding Newsletter

April 2020



Welcome to the April 2020 Regional Safeguarding Newsletter: Safeguarding during the Covid-19 shutdown



Safeguarding Advice for Volunteers: Video

This short video was produced by Waltham Forest, but is applicable to all those doing community volunteering during the Covid-19 lockdown. It focuses on the following key points:

- If you see something, say something
- Volunteers have a safeguarding role
- Some people may volunteer for the wrong reasons
- Volunteer safety should be a priority, not just the safety of those they are helping/working with.

Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/HHQG8CJROhU>

Staying Safe Online

Many people who do not usually spend much time online are now using the internet to access worship resources and as a means of communication during lockdown. Some useful advice for adults on using the internet safely can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website [here](#) under: *guidance for adults who may not be used to using the internet safely*.

Many people have also recently signed up to **Facebook**, and other social media sites, in order to access worship resources while the churches are closed. The Methodist Church has put together the following useful guidance for those who are new to Facebook so they can join safely and access worship resources.

www.methodist.org.uk/media/16768/how-to-get-started-on-facebook.pdf

Updated Information

All of the web pages and resources mentioned in this newsletter are being updated frequently. It is worth checking them regularly for new information

Being Transparent and safe online

The Methodist Church have also produced some advice aimed at ministers and those attempting to continue pastoral work online while they cannot meet face to face. This guidance can be downloaded [here](#) under: *guide to Pastoral Contacts for ministers in a virtual world*.

This issue contains:

- Safeguarding Advice for Volunteers: Video
- Staying Safe Online: Advice
- Being Safe and Transparent Online
- Updated Information
- Safeguarding Considerations: Visiting and handling money
- Male Victims of Domestic Abuse: Support
- Useful Contacts

Support for Male Victims of Domestic Abuse: ManKind

In response to requests from those working with male victims of domestic abuse, ManKind (a charity focused on working with male victims of domestic abuse) have set up a closed Facebook discussion group.

If you would like to join, please 'like' the ManKind Facebook page [here](#) and then send an email to mdan@mankind.org.uk with your Facebook details so they can add you to the group.

ManKind's website can be viewed here: www.mankind.org.uk

Useful Contacts

Regional Safeguarding Officer:

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Chair of Regional Safeguarding Group:

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Regional Safeguarding Administrator:

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Covid-19: Safeguarding Considerations

The Methodist Church has produced a number of useful documents with guidance around common safeguarding queries arising from the current lockdown situation. All the documents can be found on the following page of the Methodist Church website:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/safeguarding-considerations/>

Visiting Guidance

Detailed guidance regarding arranging visits can be downloaded [here](#). Some key points to remember:

- Be clear about the role of the visitor.
- Make sure visitors have oversight from the church.
- Make sure someone else is told about the visit and it's purpose, then informed of any concerns raised by the visitor.
- New visitors must undergo standard safer recruitment processes.

Handling Money

There is also a useful section for those receiving visits, particularly with regard to transferring money. Ideally, payment in cash should be avoided and payment should be made by either:

- Bank transfer (if the person is online or can be assisted with this by family).
- Telephone banking (which can be arranged by ringing the number on the back of the person's bank card).
- Cheque (provided the person does not have Covid-19).
- Cash can be used if none of the above are possible.

If a person is self-isolating and running out of cash, they should be encouraged to contact their bank and try to set up a pre-payment card. Only as a very last resort should a card and pin number be handed over and if this is done, as with cash, there must be a paper trail.

Methodist Church Website

[Covid-19 Guidance](#)

It is worth checking this page frequently as it is being updated regularly with new resources and the best new advice.