

New Places for New People

Starting new Christian
communities:
A practical guide

Chapter 18
Safeguarding

Safeguarding

New Places for New People (NPNP) projects and communities will be varied in their approach and contexts. The principles and practices of the Methodist Church safeguarding policy must be followed at all times.

1. All NPNPs should consult and follow the Methodist Church safeguarding policies and procedure guidance (see table below).
2. The NPNP safeguarding policy should be written in consultation with the District Safeguarding Officer and reviewed annually.

The safeguarding policy, procedures and guidance of the Methodist Church have been created in order to:

Promote	Prevent	Protect
Promote the well-being of children, young people and adults through a culture of shared responsibility for safeguarding, within clearly assigned roles.	Prevent harm through best practice in work with children, young people and adults and the creation of a culture of informed vigilance.	Protect through responding effectively when safeguarding concerns arise.

Questions to ask yourself

The following list is not exhaustive and is intended as a starting point for your work on safeguarding in your context.

- Which trustee body holds responsibility for this NPNP in terms of safeguarding, eg district/circuit meeting/church council?
- Who is the designated safeguarding lead for the NPNP?
- What roles in the NPNP require a DBS check?
- Which roles need to complete Foundation/Advanced Safeguarding training?
- What risk assessments for gatherings/activities are required (eg children and young people, gatherings/meetings, health and safety)?
- What policies and procedures are needed for digital communication?
- Are you aware of the impact of abuse, and good practice in responding well to survivors of abuse?
- Do people know how to respond to a safeguarding complaint, and the process for making a referral if necessary?
- Are you aware of the process for managing someone with a safeguarding contract if needed?
- How will you meet the criteria for data protection and GDPR (including use of photography and video recordings)?
- How will you enable the NPNP safeguarding policy to be easily accessible to all participants?

Further resources

Methodist Church safeguarding policies and procedure guidance, as well as templates of Methodist Church safeguarding policies, are available at: www.methodist.org.uk/safeguardingpolicy/