

Appendix 10: The Safer Church - self assessment checklist¹

Safeguarding

1. Is everyone aware of your church's safeguarding policies and proceduresⁱ and where to find them?
2. Do you consider that your church understands what safeguarding is? ⁱⁱ

Prevention

3. Do you have a Safeguarding coordinatorⁱⁱⁱ?
4. Are your Trustees/leaders aware of their safeguarding responsibility?^{iv}
5. Do you follow safer recruitment guidelines when finding and employing volunteers and staff including DBS checks? ^v
6. Are you confident that leaders, staff and volunteers in your church are aware of their safeguarding role and responsibility? Have they attended appropriate training including refresher training?^{vi}
7. Are they aware that safeguarding is preventative and proactive? Have you considered who may be at risk in your congregation and taken appropriate steps to keep them safe?

Recognising Reporting and recording

8. Are you confident that your staff and volunteers would recognise and respond appropriately to suspicions, allegations or disclosures of abuse and neglect? Do they recognise that abuse "could happen here"?
9. Are you confident that staff /volunteers would raise poor practice issues as well as more serious abuse?
10. Where concerns have been recognised or reported, can you show that your organisation has reacted promptly and appropriately?
11. Have all safeguarding matters been reported to the Panel Safeguarding Officer?
12. Are your trustees aware of their responsibilities to report relevant safeguarding matters to the Charities Commission? ^{iv}

Review

13. Do you regularly review your safeguarding arrangements? (at least annually or after any concerns or incidents).
14. Do you ensure that lessons are learned and communicated following concerns and incidents?
15. If you have any safeguarding risk assessments or contracts of agreed behaviour in place – are these reviewed as agreed or annually?

Take action

16. Make a list of any actions that are necessary following your assessment and include target dates to review progress.
17. Contact the Panel Safeguarding Officer if you would like to discuss the results of your assessment and for advice and support on any safeguarding matter.

¹ This document is based on the interactive safeguarding checklist from the Ann Crafft Trust: used with permission and thanks <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/checklist-overview/>

ⁱ The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook <https://panel.cymru/en/safeguarding-vulnerable>

ⁱⁱ Have you displayed the individual church policy and considered arranging a [Safeguarding Sunday service?](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ See page 3 of the Individual church safeguarding policy statement for more details [Policies \(panel.cymru\)](#)

^{iv} see appendix 7 in the 2022 update to the [Handbook](#)

^v See more information in Section 2 of the Handbook or on our website [Safer Recruitment \(panel.cymru\)](#)

^{vi} See the [training page](#) on our website