



SAFEGUARDING

URC NORTHERN SYNOD

Safeguarding and the Charity Commission

The Charity Commission has sent a regulatory alert to charities regarding safeguarding. It states that:

'Trustees are responsible for safeguarding even if certain aspects of the work are delegated to staff. Trustees should therefore make public their clear commitment to safeguarding by publishing the charity's safeguarding policy and stating that failure to follow it will be dealt with as a very serious matter.

Trustees should proactively safeguard and promote the well-being and welfare of their charity's beneficiaries and take reasonable steps to protect these beneficiaries, and others who come into contact with their charity, from harm. This is a key governance priority. Any failure by trustees to manage safeguarding risks adequately would be of serious regulatory concern to the Commission. We may consider this to be misconduct and/or mismanagement in the administration of the charity and it may also be a breach of trustee duty.'

To read the full alert, which is very relevant to local churches, please go to www.gov.uk/government/news/regulatory-alert-to-charities-safeguarding

Safer Recruitment

An excellent set of principles to use when seeking to safely recruit people into church teams on either a paid or voluntary basis can be found in the URC Safeguarding Good Practice Guidelines section 6.

This can be found here:

<https://www.urch.org.uk/images/safeguarding/GP4-Safeguarding-Pack-2015w.pdf>

Online Safety

Advice and resources to help keep children and young people safe can be found here <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

Domestic Abuse

Some excellent resources for churches to identify and respond to domestic abuse can be found at <https://www.restoredrelationships.org>

Safeguarding Leads Network

A second network meeting for church safeguarding leads will be held on **Saturday 14th April 2018, 11am until 2pm at Waddington Street URC, Waddington Street, DURHAM. DH1 4BG.**

Refreshments and a sandwich lunch will be provided.

It would be good if as many church safeguarding leads as possible could attend as this meeting provides opportunity to share your good practice and seek support with your challenges.

A member of the Due Diligence Checking Team will be joining us to tell us more about the online system for obtaining DBS checks and to answer your questions. Other agenda items can be shaped by you. Please send them to Geraldine Sands at gsands.safeguardingurc@outlook.com

If you can join this meeting, please let the synod office know before Easter:

(Wendy.watson@urch-northernsynod.org)