
SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN No 6 – October 2017

Creating Safer Spaces Training: There are still some volunteers at LMC who should attend these courses and I advise it is not left to the end of the year. All volunteers with *children* and *adults who may be vulnerable* are required to attend this training (including Local Preachers and Worship Leaders) – other church members and volunteers are warmly invited. Given the way we operate at LMC with community activities like the Holiday Club we strongly recommend everybody to attend.

Future Courses: Foundation Refresher	21 st October	Afternoon 2 – 4:30	Shern Hall
	22nd November	Evening 7:30 - 10	Leytonstone
	25th November	Afternoon 2 - 4:30	Loughton

First aid course: The First Aid Course was held on the 2nd October and 11 more people are now qualified giving us a resource of 18. As part of the course all were trained in the use of a defibrillator. It would now seem sensible to have one at LMC. It might save one of our lives and could be invaluable as a public service. The cost is about £850 so it will have to be by donations. If you are interested in helping raise this amount please speak to Malcolm

Fire Marshall Course: As with first aid we need to increase our pool of Fire Marshalls and a certificated course has been arranged for the 18th October 7:30 – 9:30pm. It is just 2 hours and is free. There will be no rotas so if it is something that you think you might be able to do please let me know?

Circuit News – Change of Safeguarding Officer: As you may know the circuit as a number of problems and I have been working with Rev David Jebb to resolve them. This has brought David to the conclusion that I must stand down as LMC Safeguarding Officer with immediate effect. It is not something that I wanted and it means my workload will increase dramatically. However, the plus side is that if we can get the circuit back on course we will stand a much better chance of attracting a new Minister next year. The Church Council has appointed **KIM SCHOFIELD** as your new Safeguarding Officer **with effect from the 6th October 2017**. Kim is well trained and fully briefed and I welcome her to our Circuit Team of Safeguarding Officers. Kim will respond to all safeguarding issues and sign all documents that require a SO signature. For the time-being, at least, I will retain responsibility for all Care Plans so still report to me on those matters. I trust you will be helpful and support Kim as much as you did me. Kim, of course, will report to the Circuit SC so I won't be far away.

Safeguarding Policy, Practice and Guidance April 2017. The Methodist Church has reissued the 'Safeguarding Handbook' and there is much that is different and it recognises the developmental changes that have been taking place. Fortunately, we are ahead of the game and many of these changes are already in place at LMC. The most significant is that if Safeguarding, H&S and Risk Assessments are not in place or done properly then it will compromise the Church Insurance and the Charity Commission Regulations (did I hear a cheer for the Activity Planner!) – the Trustees (Church Council) need to keep this subject under constant review.

As I sign out I would like to thank you for your support and patience as we have implemented so many major changes over the last two years.

Together we can make LMC a safer place for all.

Malcolm Bell JP
Forest Circuit Safeguarding Coordinator.