



Safeguarding

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P11-17 of the Booklet

Safeguarding update & plans



- Training schedule
- Casework
- Additional face to face sessions in the next quarter (commencing July)
- Safeguarding coordinators forum 9th April
- Trustee responsibilities training
- Ministers workshop
- Focus on equipping local churches to operate with safeguarding principles embedded in practice

Paper T2 resolution 44**To embed safeguarding responsibilities in the URC Structure and Rules of Procedure****Church Meeting:**

- a) Appoint Church Safeguarding Co-Ordinator, cognisant of safeguarding policy, practice and procedure.
- b) To receive regular – at least annual – safeguarding reports from the CSC.

Elders' Meeting:

- a) Present annual report to Church Meeting and annual return to synod.

Paper T2 resolution 44**To embed safeguarding responsibilities in the URC Structure and Rules of Procedure****Synod:**

- a) Appoint SSO with necessary experience, qualifications and current knowledge.
- b) Arrange for safeguarding training as appropriate.
- c) Collate church safeguarding returns and forward to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

General Assembly:

- a) Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead with the necessary experience, qualifications and current knowledge.

Paper T3 Resolution 46 Safeguarding Advisory Group change



General Assembly resolves that, effective from the close of General Assembly 2022:

- a) The Mission Council's **Safeguarding Advisory Group** be disbanded, with thanks for all those who have given so generously of their time and expertise over the years, and
- b) A **Safeguarding Committee** be established as a standing committee of the General Assembly with the membership and terms of reference as described

Paper T4 Resolution 47 policy statement



General Assembly adopts the safeguarding policy statement outlined in this report and commends it to church meetings, elders' meetings and synods for consideration and implementation

- The policy shows our commitment to safeguarding by
 - ensuring it is present in our culture and practice
 - being vigilant in protecting the vulnerable
 - Caring in a responsible way for all people who are part of the church, including those who pose a risk
 - Working in collaboration with other relevant bodies

Paper T5 - Resolution 48

General Assembly adopts the Safeguarding Training Framework and instructs Synods to oversee its implementation



Roles requiring mandatory training:	Foundation Training	Intermediate Training	Advanced Training	Roles requiring mandatory training:	Foundation Training	Intermediate Training	Advanced Training
Synod Safeguarding Officers / Advisors	✓	✓	✓	Youth and Children Workers including volunteer leaders	✓	✓	✓
Managers of Synod Safeguarding Officers / Advisors	✓			Y&CW Workers (helpers) **	✓	✓	
Church Safeguarding Coordinators	✓	✓		Adult Workers including volunteer leaders	✓	✓	✓
Deputy Church Safeguarding Coordinator	✓	✓		Adult Workers (helpers) **	✓	✓	
Members of Synod Safeguarding Committees and Reference Groups	✓			Managers of Children, Youth and Adults Workers	✓		
Active Ministers and CRCWs (including retired ministers who meet the requirements of active ministry)	✓	✓		Pastoral Workers / Visitors	✓	✓	
Synod Moderators	✓	✓	✓	Synod Clerks	✓		
				Worship Leaders and Assembly-Accredited Lay Preachers	✓	✓	
				URC & Synod Trustees	✓		
				Elders as local church trustees	✓		

Paper T6: Resolution 49

General Assembly approves the updated matrix of roles eligible for a criminal record check - DBS Roles



	Enhanced with barring information		Enhanced without barring		Basic check	No checks	Action by
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children			
Ministers, stipendiary / NSM and Church Related Community Workers - Active	✓	✓					Ministries
Ministers, stipendiary / NSM and Church Related Community Workers – Non-active						✓	Ministries
Ministers of other denominations employed by the URC	✓	✓					Ministries
Others in special category ministry posts	✓	✓					Ministries
Ministers and CRCWs in training	✓	✓					Ministries
URC Assembly accredited lay preachers in England and Wales			✓	✓			Ministries
Assembly staff and Church House support staff who undertake regulated activity with children and / or adults	✓	✓					Ministries

Paper T6: Resolution 49

General Assembly approves the updated matrix of roles eligible for a criminal record check - DBS Roles



	Enhanced with barring information		Enhanced without barring		Basic check	No checks	Action by
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children			
Children's and youth workers (voluntary or paid), children and youth workers, stewards and drivers in settings with regulated work with children and young people	✓	✓					Local Church
Vulnerable adult workers (voluntary or paid), elders and pastoral and personal care visitors where the role includes direct feeding, physical care, assistance with financial matters, bereavement support/counselling or diving to medical or social care appointments	✓						Local Church
Elders as local church trustees, trustees of registered charities providing regulated activities for children or adults at risk			✓	✓			Local Church

Paper T6: Resolution 49

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	Enhanced with barring information		Enhanced without barring		Basic check	No checks	Action by
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children			
Serving Elders			✓	✓			Local Church
Authorised Elders **			✓	✓			Local Church
Church caretaker and cleaners					✓		Local Church
Church Administrators (or equivalent working from a Church Office)					✓		Local Church
Church Treasurers					✓		Local Church

H4 Safer election of Elders

Assembly Executive strongly recommends local churches to use the process for the Safer Election of Elders.



A nomination process shall be agreed by Church Meeting. Names of those nominated should be given in written form to the Minister and/or Church Secretary;

Those nominated should

- a) be a church member for at least one year before being nominated;
- b) Read leaflet - *They've asked me to be an Elder*

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- c) have a conversation with the minister/interim moderator plus a serving Elder about the role including **commitment of promises**, functions as laid out in the **Basis of Union**, **safeguarding procedure** and responsibilities of **trusteeship** (where the Elder is going to be a trustee)
- where elders are unable to be a trustee because they are disqualified, a risk assessment by the Synod Safeguarding Officer (SSO) should be completed
- complete a Self-Declaration form
- d) agree for their names to go forward to **Church Meeting**;
- Election normally by secret ballot. Only church members are eligible to vote

H4 Safer Election of Elders (continued)



Upon election, the newly elected elder shall:

- undertake a suitable induction training programme
- be given a copy of URC Guidelines for the **Conduct and Behaviour of Elders** and the church's **safeguarding policy** with knowledge of how to report concerns.
- **apply for a relevant DBS/PVG** (where appropriate) through the normal channels. Where timing between election and ordination and/or induction **does not allow a DBS self-declaration form should be completed;**
- **attend safeguarding training** within six months of ordination/induction.



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