

OCTOBER 2023

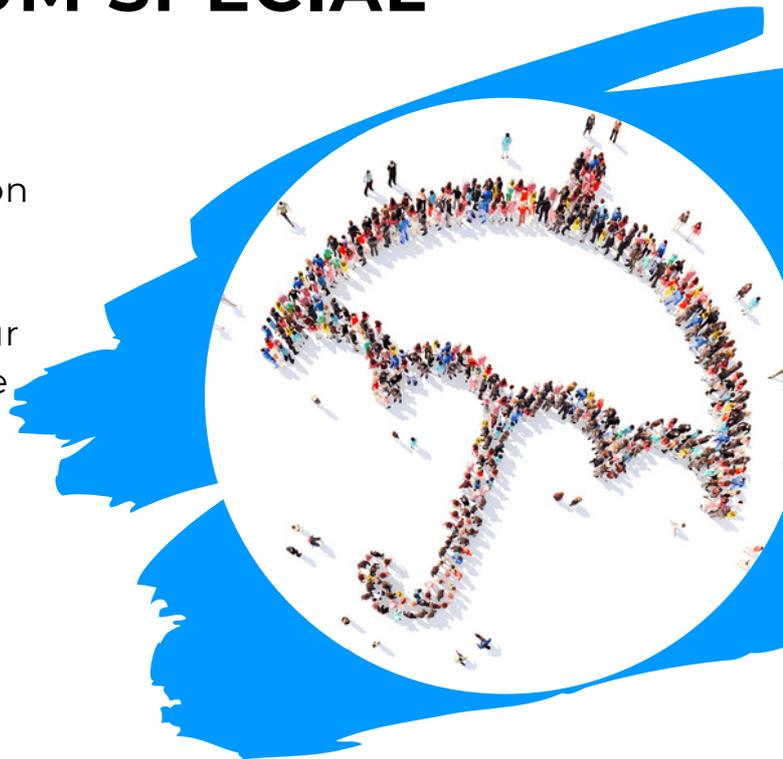
SAFEGUARDING

NEWSLETTER

GP6 AND SYMPOSIUM SPECIAL

Almost 300 people attended the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Symposium on Thursday 12th October. The Rev Adrian Bulley's opening reflection for the afternoon conference reaffirmed that safeguarding is a scriptural imperative, a faith "full" response, and our direction of travel for safeguarding in the URC is shifting from a mere focus on compliance to creating a culture of care and protection for everyone. This was mirrored by the excellent afternoon, driven by the Safeguarding Team Designated Safeguarding Lead for URC Sharon, administrated efficiently Emma and delivered expertly by Kerry Baker Policy Development Coordinator and Carrie Kaunda Training Development coordinator .

Kerry introduced the new guidelines, GP6. Outlining the structure and sections she explained it is shorter than its predecessor, but not as much as hoped. Nevertheless, we are assured it is far more accessible and clearer in format and thus making it more user friendly. Future versions are unlikely to be in hard copy and there is now facility to update rather than rewrite! Margaret Thompson (Cambridge Downing Place) and Sonia Wilkes (Lea Road Community Church, Wolverhampton) provided URC church context and how the new publication was developed. We thank you all. Carrie continued with a synopsis of training available for all levels of the church and launched the new Foundation E-Learning module which is now hosted on the URC Learning Hub. As well as a rich variety of themes, accessibility is again a key element for delivery.



Carrie then introduced Dr Leroy Logan MBE and teased out via discussion and questions issues in relation to practice and values. As retired senior police officer and, for thirty years Chair of the Black Police Association he was well qualified to help us explore safeguarding in a institutional culture where there is bias and prejudice. What does this say to the church? Not on a few occasions did he make comment on his own faith and how this was essential for him in the very values our institutions need; openness, a willingness to change and be challenged and transparency. What does this say to the church?



We come full circle. Compliance and training are essential for safeguarding but so are our values and practices in creating a safe culture; a scriptural imperative, a faith “full” response and our direction of travel for safeguarding in the URC. For everyone is to be safe. For everyone is part of safeguarding. All this reinforced again, in Heather Wilkinson’s winning title for GP6, Safeguarding For Everyone.

Revd Roger Jones, Convenor Safeguarding Committee

For those who were unable to attend the symposium, you can view it on the URC website on the safeguarding page right now, [here](#).

GP6 is currently at the printers. We will be sending hard copies to Church Safeguarding Coordinators and Synods over the next 6 weeks or so. GP6 is available on line [here](#).

The new E-Learning Safeguarding Foundation course is now on a new platform which offers more stability and accessibility and is now available on the URC Learning Hub [here](#).

TRAINING UPDATES

TRAINING REVIEW GROUP

All training developed in line with the safeguarding framework is discussed at our Training Review Group and at each meeting we welcome a member of a local church to join us.

If you are interested in joining a meeting to give any feedback on safeguarding training then please contact carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk



SPECIALIST SAFEGUARDING TRAINING (ZOOM)

2023

22 November 1.30-3.30 - DDC and Safer Recruitment

28 November 1.30-3.30 - Safeguarding for Pastoral Workers and Elders supporting Survivors

2024

Please do visit the flyer for Central URC Safeguarding training, please click [National Training Dates](#), including DBS Verifier and Safer Recruitment - to book a space, please contact Emma Pearce citing your church and role emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING FOUNDATION COURSE - E-LEARNING

We have upgraded the learning platform which provides a more secure and easy learning journey for all devices (ie laptops, tablets, mobile phones) and is now hosted on the URC Learning Hub which provides a one-stop shop for many URC courses. Click [here](#) for the Safeguarding Foundation course.

TRAINING WEBINARS

Here is the first of a number of webinars that we are hosting online so that you can view in your own time. This one is [Elders as Trustees](#). More to follow!

A note about training - we create records for each learner to show their attendance at safeguarding events. We can only do this if we can see your record on the database against your church. Could we remind all churches to ensure that their database records are up to date - this is done usually by the church secretary using the URC church update portal or contacting their synod.

CLICK HERE

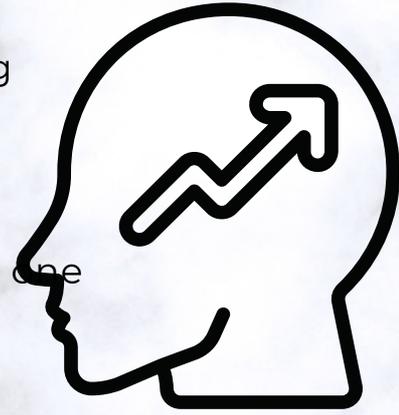
OTHER NEWS

The Clewer Initiative - the voice for anti-slavery

The URC has partnered with the [Clewer Initiative](#) to bring awareness of Modern Slavery.

The Central Team will be running a Modern Slavery safeguarding course in 2024 following the success of the one we held in September.

In the meantime, please take a look at the [Clewer Initiative](#) website for resources and guidance on how to identify modern slavery and, together, help eradicate it.



Children and Youth Work webinar

The Safeguarding Team works closely with the Children and Youth Work Team. Lorraine Webb, CYW Programme Officer has produced a series of interesting webinars for those working with children and young people understanding behaviour and additional needs We hope you take some time to view if this will help your role. It is available on YouTube [here](#).

Safeguarding Sunday 19 November

This is an initiative through the organisation [ThirtyOne:Eight](#). is an opportunity to raise an awareness in your Church. Along with the resources available through ThirtyOne:Eight, there are also URC Worship Notes available that follow a safeguarding theme [Worship Notes - United Reformed Church](#) Please feel free to share these with your churches worship leader for that day.

URC Synod Staffing Update

South Western Synod

Hello, my name is Claire Partridge and I have been appointed as the South Western Synod's Safeguarding Officer.

I have been a primary school teacher for many years, a special educational needs coordinator across two small schools for about 8 years and a safeguarding lead too. My roles in schools have been varied and I enjoyed being able to support all family members to overcome challenges that they faced and point them in the direction of agencies that were able to support them further.

Since starting this job I have been getting to know many faces and learning about how the URC works. I have enjoyed meeting the SSO's virtually already and seeing what a supportive group you are!

Please contact me

SafeguardingOfficer@urcsouthwest.org.uk /07875
454 064

Northern and Yorkshire Synods

Carrie Kaunda is Synod Safeguarding Officer for Yorkshire Synod
carriekaunda.yorkshire@urc.org.uk / 07432886158.

Helen Berg Synod Safeguarding Officer for the Northern Synod
helenberg.northern@urc.org.uk / 07432886153.

Paula Kitson continues in her role as Synod Safeguarding Support Officer for both Synods paulakitson.land4@urc.org.uk / 077562606024

Matt Knowles continue to work across both Synods as a lead Synod Safeguarding Officer mattknowles.land4@urc.org.uk / 07761525592

Both Synods now have a dedicated email address and inbox for any queries or assistance that you may need in relation to safeguarding. This inbox is monitored Monday to Friday by one of the team to ensure that you get a quick and dedicated response safeguarding.land4@urc.org.uk

