



Christian Safeguarding Services Newsletter

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Helping Churches and other Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) to achieve best practice in safeguarding in a biblically faithful way

What do we need to have in place?

- Robust and relevant policies
- Clear and effective procedures
- Clear expectations and codes of conduct
- Effective and proportionate systems
- A nurturing culture of vigilance and transparency
- An integrated approach that unifies all of the above into a holistic and well integrated system

New resources now available for download on our website to help you achieve best practice in a proportionate and practical way

How healthy and safe audit tool

Helps you to understand how to meet your legal duties and to approach safeguarding in a proportionate way that is glorifying to God

Safeguarding policy framework

Helps you to develop an effective policy or to review your existing policy in line with current expectations

Safeguarding competency framework

Helps you to understand the skills and knowledge that your staff and volunteers need and to develop an effective training programme

WebSite: www.thecss.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @CSSsafeguarding

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The role and responsibilities of leaders / trustees

- Ensure compliance with legislation and both national and local guidance
- Ensure effective policies, procedures and systems are in place
- Ensuring that safeguarding practice is effective across the Organisation
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead receives adequate resources and is effectively supported
- Provide effective accountability
- Ensure that a positive and effective culture is developed across the organisation

More detailed information is provided in our "Safe and Sound" course

The Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead person is:

- Managing concerns and referrals
- Work in partnership with other agencies and sharing information appropriately to keep vulnerable people safe
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training to support their competence
- Raising awareness of safeguarding across the organisation
- Maintaining confidential safeguarding files

More detailed information is provided in our "Designated Safeguarding Lead" training

New training courses available around the country

"Safe and Sound" Course

This course helps church and FBO leaders and safeguarding leads to understand the policies, procedures, systems and culture that needs to be developed in order to comply with the latest legislation, guidance and best practice in safeguarding; demonstrating how our audit tool can help in developing proportionate and effective processes and culture.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Training

Helps Designated Safeguarding Leads to understand their role and responsibilities in leading safeguarding across the church or organisation.

Train the Trainer

This annual subscription service helps churches who have suitably experienced members to use materials that we have developed and update on an ongoing basis to deliver training themselves to their own staff and volunteers; providing significant cost savings for larger organisations.

Safeguarding to the glory of God

Safeguarding is a practical outworking of our biblical values, principles and worldview and supports our gospel witness.

At CSS, we believe that the careful and rigorous application of our biblical beliefs to safeguarding will result in a standard of conduct that is far beyond that which the state dictates. There are, of course, some specific aspects that we need to address in specific ways in order to comply with legal requirements, but our biblical worldview should shape and expand our approach to safeguarding well beyond what the state requires.

It is not our intention here to develop this theme, in detail, however, key points that we would consider would include, but are not limited to:

- All humans made in the image of God
- The reality of life in a fallen and broken world (including the depravity of the human heart)
- God's love and compassion for people
- The Old Testament law in relation to the vulnerable (including unborn children)
- Jesus example in his interactions with children and vulnerable adults
- Obedience to those the Lord has set in authority over us
- The church as a community of grace: a place of love, mercy, grace, healing, reconciliation and restoration
- The command to do everything to the glory of God: including our witness to a watching world
- Respect and care for all
- Scripture never hides sin and disobedience but rather brings that which is hidden into the light: including the concept of dealing with sin in the camp

If we think these principles through, allowing them to shape our approach to safeguarding, we will find that although the secular world in which we live disagrees with our beliefs and values; even regarding them as evil, they will have to concede that our deeds demonstrate our commitment to love God, and to love our neighbor, and this will give glory to God.

The current context

Within society at large, there are significant changes taking place and an ever increasing understanding of, and expectation in relation to, safeguarding. It is important that we as churches understand and respond to these changes. Our aim is to support churches and other Christian FBOs to achieve best practice. Within the social context, come of the key themes are:

- Increasing secularisation and a move away from a broadly biblical moral and ethical stance
- Increasing awareness of the scope and scale of historic and current abuse
 - Recognition that voluntary sector organisations (including churches) have in the past been insufficiently robust and that abuse has occurred as a result
 - Recognition that in the past, cases of abuse have not been taken seriously enough and have sometimes not been dealt with decisively
- Increasing expectation of organisations working with children, young people and adults at risk of abuse
- Increasing awareness on the abuse of power and authority
- Increasing pressure on services and a greater expectation of competence and confidence in staff and volunteers
- Etc

It is ever more important that we understand and respond to the issues that are before us in an effective, proportionate, open and transparent way.

Membership Scheme

Free membership

- Sign up for the newsletter
- Access to free information on the website
- DBS checks and other services on "pay-as-you-go" basis

Basic membership

- Access to premium resources.
- Help to interpret guidance and "how to" guides

Cost £60 per year

****£50 for FIEC/EA/
Affinity churches**

Full membership

- Access to premium resources, policy document"
- 5 DBS checks professed free
- Discounts on training, consultancy and any other service

Cost £120 per year

**£100 for FIEC/EA/
Affinity churches**

CSS Update

Over the past 12 months we have developed a full range of services including:

- Training
- A website containing useful resources
- An advice line
- A cost effective membership scheme
- DBS processing service.

We are pleased to be able to announce that Christian Safeguarding Services (CSS) will become a registered charity this year. This is an important step for us and we would value your prayers as we move this forward.

We are in the process of gathering a group of trustees with suitable skills and experience to grow the ministry of CSS and to achieve the vision of equipping and empower churches and faith based organisations to achieve best practice in safeguarding in a biblically faithful way.

We are also beginning to build a network of trainers who can help us deliver our courses to churches and other FBOs.

We are keen to hear from anyone who has a experience and expertise in and a passion for safeguarding in a church context, and shares our historically orthodox evangelical beliefs, to help us in this important work. Please contact Paul on 0333 303 4101 or paul@thecss.co.uk for an informal discussion and more information.

Most importantly, please do pray for us.

Prayer Points

- **That the trustee board would make wise decisions as we seek to establish CSS and a charity**
- **That we would be able to help churches navigate their way through the challenges of our current environment**
- **That we will have the capacity and the energy to provide an efficient, high quality and cost effective service to churches and FBOs**
- **That we would grow into a sustainable ministry that is a blessing to the churches that we serve**

Christian Safeguarding Services Training

We currently have the following dates booked:

“Safe and Sound”

This course is for church leaders and safeguarding leads and covers the strategic level of safeguarding; Policies, procedures, systems, legal compliance and best practice.

[17th May 2019 London](#)

[22nd May Manchester](#)

[5th June Cambridge](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead

This course is for Designated Safeguarding Leads and covers the operational level of safeguarding; the role and responsibilities of the DSL and how to lead safeguarding across the organisation on an ongoing basis.

[13th April 2019 London](#)

[1st June Birmingham](#)

[20th July Manchester](#)

[14th September Cambridge](#)

Essential Awareness Training for Staff and Volunteers

This training is for those who are directly involved with children, young people or adults at risk of abuse. It covers the basic competencies; understanding what safeguarding is, what abuse is, how to recognize it and how to respond to disclosures or concerns.

[6th April Tredegar](#)

Mental Health Awareness for churches

Mental Health Awareness session is a full days training covering the sensitive issues around mental health, addressing the stigma, uncertainty and fear that is often present in some of our churches. We seek to help churches, in a safe and nurturing environment to talk through mental health from a biblical perspective and we facilitate open conversations around some of those concerns and apply principles in ways to support and to help and encourage

[6th July 2019 Birmingham](#)

[13th July London](#)

[28th September Manchester](#)

[5th October Cambridge](#)

All dates and how to book are on the website

www.thecss.co.uk

More dates being added all of the time so keep checking for an event near you.