



Model Policy for North Bedfordshire Circuit

Aims and intentions

This policy aims to ensure that domestic abuse is acknowledged and responded to appropriately within the Methodist Church. To do this we will:

- 1 raise awareness about domestic abuse and its impact on individuals, children, the wider family and community
- 2 ensure that the safety of individuals suffering abuse or seeking help is the first priority, and be aware of the need for confidentiality (unless there are safeguarding concerns)
- 3 consider how best to provide support and information for anyone seeking help, including working with specialist agencies
- 4 encourage discussion of how our church can be a safer space for victims and survivors of domestic abuse
- 5 regularly discuss the Domestic Abuse policy, procedures, theology and principles that underpin it
- 6 adopt the Domestic Abuse Charter and display this in our churches and on social media
- 7 discuss domestic abuse with church leaders, including at the Church Council and Circuit Meetings
- 8 ~~review this policy annually and monitor it continually.~~

This policy was adopted by:

~~on: 23rd February 2023~~

Next review date is: ~~February 2024~~

September 2026

North Bedfordshire Circuit Meeting September 2024
Issues requiring circuit action

1. Adoption of the North Bedfordshire Methodist policies as listed below for 2 years unless they need updating before.

Issue

To approve the Circuit policies as follows:

- Circuit Safeguarding Policy
- Circuit Social Media Policy
- Circuit Electronic Communication Policy
- Circuit Domestic Abuse Policy
- Circuit Callers to Manses Policy

Timing

Immediate

Recommendation

All of the above policies are approved for 2 years, unless revision is needed before.

Background and argument

All policies to be agreed where no changes are needed at the September North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit Meeting every two years.

Next Steps

Proposed by *Stephen Paul*

Seconded by *Phil Thomas*

Abstained.....

Agreed by the Meeting

Signed Rev Michael Giles *[Signature]*
Superintendent Minister
9th September 2024