

Paper R1

Safeguarding Advisory Group
General Report

United Church 2015
Church 2015
Reformed Church 2015
Church 2015



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Safeguarding Advisory Group General Report

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) richard.church@urc.org.uk
Action required	Take note
Draft resolution(s)	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Update on the work of the Safeguarding Advisory Group
Main points	Publication of <i>Good Practice 4</i> Change of agency for safeguarding checks Staff change in Church House
Previous relevant documents	Mission Council May 2015 Papers R1&2
Consultation has taken place with...	

Summary of Impact

Financial	
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

Safeguarding Advisory Group

The period since the last Mission Council meeting has been exceptionally busy.

1. *Good Practice Four* has now been published online and a copy has been sent to every Synod Office. This policy document summarises best safeguarding practice and gives guidelines for implementation. The publication of this significant document reflects the input and collaboration of many people, to whom we are very grateful.

The appendices together with an 'Adults at Risk' section will be published during the autumn. Handbooks have been mailed to all local churches and additional copies are available from Church House, at a cost of £3.50 plus postage and packing.

2. We are changing the agency we use for safeguarding checks. Due Diligence Checking will be taking over DBS clearances from 1st November 2015. DDC have been in touch with local church verifiers to introduce themselves and the service they will provide to us in the future. For the time being ministers' checks will be handled in Church House. The Churches' Agency for Safeguarding, the agency we previously used, will be unable to deal with any requests made after 31st October.
3. Amy Slennett was appointed in July 2013 to work in a 50% role as the URC Safeguarding Officer. The other half of her time was spent with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. However, when it was decided that this split post would come to an end, Amy opted to continue her work in the BUGB context. The URC therefore thanked Amy warmly, when she left in September, for all that she has done for us, and we have now engaged in a recruitment process, to appoint a full-time officer to this role. We hope to report further at Mission Council.
4. Perhaps the most time-consuming task in the realm of Safeguarding has been the Historic Cases Review. The triaging of Ministers' files was authorized by the May meeting of Mission Council. This and subsequent developments are dealt with in a separate report, Paper R2.

