

## M22 (2016) Safeguarding Records

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<b>Resolution</b>	53/1. The Council receives the report

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To inform the Council of progress in the work undertaken to explore the costs and feasibility of a connexional recording system for safeguarding work.
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	MC/18/61 M22 (2016) Safeguarding Records which established a set of principles and areas that needed further testing.

1. The following memorial was brought to the 2016 Conference, and the reply shown below was adopted:

#### **M22 Systems for recording safeguarding cases**

*In light of the revised guidance Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for Church of England and The Methodist Church, the Southend and Leigh (34/10) Circuit Meeting (Present: 43; Voting: unanimous) recommends and requests that the Methodist Church develops a secure connexional online system for safeguarding recording and reporting to ensure consistent and effective compliance with data protection legislation, and good practice. This system could be part of the Methodist online suite.*

#### **Reply**

*The Conference thanks the Southend and Leigh Circuit Meeting for highlighting the importance of storing the required safeguarding information and that this be in a secure and compliant environment.*

*The revised guidance Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for Church of England and The Methodist Church should be followed across the Connexion and is available on the Church website at*

*<http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/1517149/Safeguarding%20recording%20guidance16%2012%2014.pdf>.*

*The Conference directs the Methodist Council to oversee an investigation of the potential feasibility and cost of a system as described in the memorial and to report back no later than the 2018 Conference.*

2. The 2018 Conference was informed (Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion, page 553 of the 2018 Conference Agenda) that the Council had identified a set of principles to be followed as well as areas that require further testing, and that a costed plan would be brought to the Council in 2019.
3. This report is brought by way of further update, noting that it is not yet possible to bring a costed plan.

4. It is clear that there would be a substantial cost to this work, both financial and in terms of staff resource, but that the level of this (and the balance between finances and staff resource) would depend on the type of system that is envisaged. Some work has been done on identifying the options and what the preferences might be, noting the particular issues relating to data protection which apply both to current practices and to any future developments.
5. It is also understood that work is underway in this area within the Church of England. It therefore seems sensible to consult with colleagues there as to whether there is any synergy to be achieved.
6. The Council is therefore informed that there has been a delay to this work while further research is undertaken. Explorations will be undertaken with the Church of England and other potential partners over the next six months with a view to bringing proposals forward to the Strategy and Resources Committee before the end of 2019 for inclusion in the budget for 2020/21.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**53/1. The Council receives the report.**