



## District Safeguarding Newsletter

### Autumn 2018

*The aim of our Safeguarding Newsletters is to provide you with the latest information relating to best practice within safeguarding, update you with any changes in policy and provide you with information regarding training opportunities. Please circulate via email to as many people as you can around your Circuit and feel free to display a copy on your church safeguarding notice board.*

*Occasionally we will write articles about specific safeguarding issues, if there is anything you would like to see contained within the newsletter or have any feedback/questions about what we have written please contact District Safeguarding Officer, Katy Spencer-Madden at [katyspencermadden@gmail.com](mailto:katyspencermadden@gmail.com)*

### UPCOMING COURSES

#### Creating Safer Space Advanced Module

Please book on a course through District Safeguarding Officer Katy Spencer-Madden, [katyspencermadden@gmail.com](mailto:katyspencermadden@gmail.com), 07771960455. For all the Advanced Module Courses; arrival and registration is from 10am with a 10.30am start and finish at 4pm.

#### Calderdale Circuit

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Northowram Methodist Church, Halifax – **\*\*FULL\*\***  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Northowram Methodist Church, Halifax

#### Bradford South Circuit

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Aldersgate Methodist Church  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Aldersgate Methodist Church

#### Airedale Circuit

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Oakworth Methodist Church  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Silsden Methodist Church

#### Skipton and Grassington Circuit

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – St Andrew's Church, Skipton  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – Trinity Methodist Church, Skipton

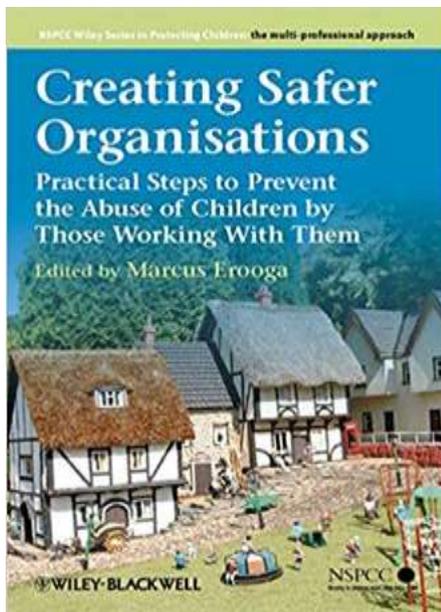


Revd. Barbara Glasson and Penny Johnson from Touchstone are holding 'Play With Words.' This is a creative writing workshop for female survivors of childhood abuse. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Touchstone (4 Easby Road, Bradford), 9.30am for a 10.00am start until 2.30pm. £30 for the day or a donation for those with low income. For further details, contact District Safeguarding Officer, Katy Spencer-Madden at [katyspencermadden@gmail.com](mailto:katyspencermadden@gmail.com)

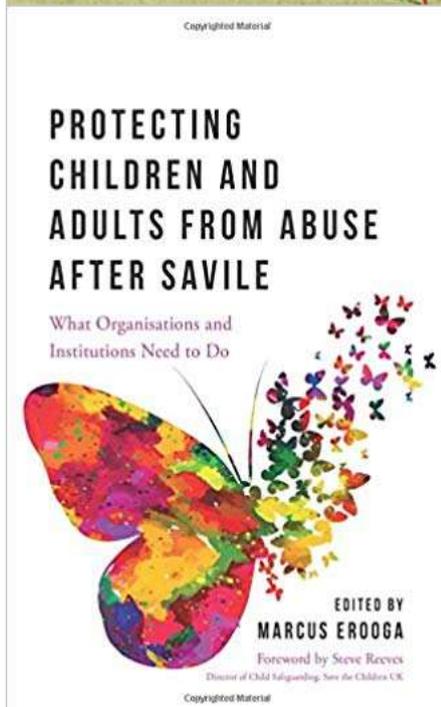


Many thanks to the Huddersfield Circuit and St Pauls Church in Dalton for hosting us for the September training. 57 people attended the Advanced Safeguarding Module. We are taking all feedback about the training on board as we prepare for the next training in Leeds South and West.

During the Advanced Safeguarding Module, we play a video of Marcus Erooga (an independent safeguarding adviser) discussing how; applying safeguarding measures in an organisation can prevent and deter someone from abusing. People who have attended the training found this video useful and motivating and wished to know more about Marcus's work/theories. Below are two books written by Marcus Erooga, available from many online book retailers. He has also co-written a number of other books.



An accessible resource to help those in organisational settings ensure that they have taken all possible steps to safeguard the children and young people they are responsible for. Draws on up to date research with people who have committed sexual offences against children in organisational settings, and new developments in interviewing approaches. Details recent cases to illustrate points about institutional failures in protecting children. Highlights the fact that those who sexually offend against children are a diverse and heterogeneous population, and the approaches taken to protect children must address the range of possible risks. Makes a firm commitment to the importance of multi-agency and inter-disciplinary collaboration and is relevant in both community and residential settings. Offers clear and practical messages and measures for organisations to act on



The high profile reporting of child sexual abuse carried out by Jimmy Savile over decades has had far reaching-consequences, raising public awareness and concern, yet we continue to uncover new cases of institutional abuse which have been taking place under the radar for years.

This book distils the learning from 80+ public inquiries relating to Savile as well as related cases of institutional abuse and analyses the key findings. It examines what we now know about offending within organisations and institutions, and how organisational failures can enable abusers. Each chapter also outlines solutions, offering perspectives for individuals and organisations on what practical action they can take to minimise risk in the settings in which they work.

The book includes chapters specifically dedicated to the NHS, sports organisations and schools, and is necessary reading for professionals with responsibility for safeguarding in any setting.

# CYBER BULLYING

By Katy Spencer-Madden

The world is a drastically changing place. Despite being in my 30's and fairly 'tech-savvy,' I am struggling to keep up with the expanding complexities of online platforms and social media.

Growing up as a teenager in the 90's, technology was just gaining strength. As a family we did have a shared computer with internet access at home, however if you wanted to connect meant you had to sit and wait for it to 'dial-up' for at least 20 minutes. I did have a mobile phone towards the end of high-school but all you could do is text and make phone calls at an extortionate cost. Nowadays technology has rocketed forward at an alarming rate and almost everyone has a phone that is capable of connecting you to the online world in the press of a button.

Whilst technology is genuinely wonderful in many ways and has enhanced people's lives; there are also difficulties, challenges and negative implications from engaging with the online world, this particularly affects a younger generation. Over the next few newsletters, I will attempt to address some of these difficulties with the aim of giving people a better understanding, that we might develop ways of protecting and caring pastorally for those impacted by these issues.

This newsletter I will explore Cyber bullying.



## What is Cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying is using any form of electronic communication to bully another person. Usually this involves sending messages that are negative, harmful, false, mean, intimidating or threatening about another person. It could also include sending personal/private information about someone that could cause them humiliation or embarrassment.

The more common places where cyber bullying occurs is through social media e.g. Facebook or Twitter, text messages, messages sent through apps, emails and through online gaming platforms.

Very often other people can view the messages and participate in or share content.

## How many people experience cyber bullying?

It is difficult to really know as many people do not reveal that they have been the target of cyber bullying. However, below are some statistics from a survey carried out with those aged 11-25 and published on [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

- 46% of young people asked said they had experienced threatening, intimidating or nasty messages via social media, email or text.
- 37% reported having personal experience of online bullying in their lifetime.
- 26% have personal experience of online bullying within the last year.
- 42% said they had seen somebody be harassed or bullied online.

# CYBER BULLYING

## Is cyber bullying a crime?

At the moment cyber bullying in itself is not covered by a specific law in the UK, however by committing an act of cyber bullying, a person may be committing a criminal offence which falls under a different act, for example; harassment, malicious communications, obscene publications, computer misuse, etc.

## What are the signs a person is being cyber bullied?

Cyber bullying can have serious effects on a person's mental health and wellbeing. Bullying was often left behind when going home from school or the workplace; now it effectively follows you wherever you are and is there when you switch on your phone or computer. More serious cases of cyber bullying have resulted in the victim taking their own life.

Signs of cyber bullying are difficult to spot as they could often be associated with other things going on within a person's life. Some possible signs may include: being nervous, losing confidence or becoming distressed or withdrawn. Being possessive of their electronic devices, jumpy or panicky when receives a text message, avoids discussions about social media or the online world, makes statements about suicide, stops attending groups they once enjoyed, wanting to spend more time with parents than peers.



## What part does the church have to play in this?

Firstly, it's an acknowledgement that this is happening and there are likely to be children, young people and increasingly, young adults in our churches who are suffering as a result of cyber bullying.

Having knowledge of these issues can help us create a safe environment where children and young people can talk and feel they are being understood.

Whilst the majority of schools will be including education of this in their curriculum, there is the possibility to engage with this as churches, particularly if the church you are part of works with children, young people and young adults.

Cyber bullying is a 'real-life' important issue that seeks to bring people down with negativity, the church can play a part in drowning that out, by affirming and celebrating young people as well as giving them a voice and an opportunity to 'be themselves,' in a world that tells them they should be anything but themselves.

If a person makes a disclosure of cyber bullying, it is important to take it seriously. Stay calm and ask them how you can help, ask open questions without judging, listen attentively, don't promise to keep an issue confidential if they are a minor encourage them to discuss this with parents. Reassure them you want to help find a resolution to the problem.

## Further resources and information on cyber bullying

[www.childnet.com/blog/free-cyberbullying-resources-for-teachers](http://www.childnet.com/blog/free-cyberbullying-resources-for-teachers)

[www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/](http://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/)

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-and-cyberbullying/research-and-resources/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-and-cyberbullying/research-and-resources/)