

## **Training Update from Connexion**

Since 24th March 2020, all scheduled safeguarding training sessions have been cancelled and there is still no clear date for when training will be able to resume. Once training resumes, there may be an issue of capacity as venues are likely to be restricted in the number of attendees who can gather, and it may still not be suitable for those in our community who are vulnerable and shielding to attend.

This means that a 'bottle neck' is approaching, where larger than planned numbers need to get through the training, with trainers being able to deliver to smaller, more restricted audiences.

In response to this pressure, some District Safeguarding Officers and Learning Network staff are under increasing pressure to begin delivering safeguarding modules online, and have begun to think through how Foundation Module courses in particular could be delivered well online. Whilst for others there are concerns that an online offer will negatively impact their district and not be an appropriate alternative.

The pressure on training delivery has some mitigation in place to reduce the pressure on the existing training system. This includes the Safeguarding Committee's decision that individuals only need to refresh at the highest level, thus reducing the pressure on the Foundation course delivery. In addition to this, the Secretary of Conference, Jonathan Hustler, has agreed to a temporary 6-month extension for those whose 4 yearly renewal has expired.

## **Online Training**

In anticipation of the future pressure on training delivery, and the restrictions that may be in place, preparatory work has been undertaken to carefully consider the role of online training platforms in supporting future course delivery. This has included consultation, reviewing the Church of England's online approaches and running two different online training pilots (focusing on Train the Trainer's - Foundation material). This review has considered the following different approaches to online learning:

- Non-facilitated learning (i.e. an e-learning module)
- Facilitated online learning (i.e. a taught zoom session)
- Blended learning (a combination of offline and online learning sessions)

At this time, there is no agreement that the Foundation or Advanced modules can take place in an online format. However, the proposal has been submitted to the Safeguarding Committee to consider this request and how best it can be achieved. It is anticipated that following this meeting further guidance will be available.

If you would like to be involved in any development work for the core training modules, please let me know on [arglesm@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:arglesm@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## **Transition from Foundation (2016 Edition) to Foundation (2020 Edition)**

The transition to the new Foundation Module had been forecast for Easter this year. Given the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in, this deadline has been pushed back to the end of the Connexional year, to ensure that trainers had fair access to opportunities to update their knowledge of the course.

This date will be held under review and work will be undertaken to ensure that no District or Circuit is disadvantaged by the new transition date, once clearer guidance from central Government is issued.

*The above is taken from the June Connexional update from 23 June 2020.*

Barbara, Emma and Susan will be starting a programme of Train the Trainers on the updated version of the Safeguarding Foundation model in late September, probably via Zoom. Once the trainers have been updated they are expected to start training from January 2021, via which medium is unclear; it will depend on the Government guidance. The training of the Advanced Safeguarding module is on hold awaiting guidance from Connexion.