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**Safeguarding Officer for the
Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District
of the Methodist Church**

**Background**

The Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District of the Methodist Church is committed to delivering the highest quality safeguarding service across its nine circuits which cover areas from Runcorn in the north to Market Drayton in the south and from the borders of England and Wales in the west to parts of the Staffordshire Moorlands in the east. While much of the geographical landscape is rural, large parts are highly populated including Chester and Stoke-on-Trent.

The District is committed to its vision to grow lay leaders, nurture new ways of being church and cultivate diverse and just communities.

As Christians we believe that each person is made in the image of God and is of infinite worth and value. We are charged to love and care for each other. This is particularly true where the most vulnerable members of our community are concerned whether they are children, young people or adults.

The Methodist Church takes safeguarding very seriously particularly following the Past Cases Review in 2015 and the District is required by Connexional policy to employ a safeguarding officer for a certain number of hours per week.

Safeguarding is about creating a safe environment where all can flourish and know themselves to be of worth. We are committed to doing that. Each church, group or activity will have a Safeguarding policy and seek to work with best practice.

The District is ambitious to live out its drive to maintain good practice standards, provide timely information and advice to local churches and operate a robust casework service. Equally, the District wishes to sustain and further develop a comprehensive safeguarding training programme that both delivers training effectively and with impact, whilst responding to requests for more specialist learning and development.

The District wishes to appoint to the following key post:

**District Safeguarding Officer**

We are seeking to appoint an experienced Safeguarding Officer on a permanent contract. The post holder will have a relevant professional qualification and be able to demonstrate a proven track record of direct safeguarding practice with vulnerable adults or children or both. The successful applicant will be expected to provide effective leadership across the District to promote a culture of safeguarding, whilst supporting survivors of abuse. Working with partners from the Church’s Learning Network, the post holder will be expected to contribute to the planning and delivery of the District’s safeguarding training programme.

The post holder will be expected to be appreciative of and receptive to operating within the aims of the Methodist Church.

**Location**: Home-based, own transport is essential

**Hours:** 30 hours per week to be worked flexibly to include some evenings and occasional weekends.

**Salary**: £39,000 for 30 hours per week (£48,750 FTE)

**Holidays:** 25 days plus bank holidays pro rata

**Closing date for applications:** midday, Friday 19 April 2024

**Interview****s:** Wednesday 1 May 2024

For an application form and further details please refer to the Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District Methodist Church website, <https://www.candsmethodists.org.uk/opportunities-1.html>

or contact Rob Glassonbury, District Administrator at chester.stoke@btconnect.com

If you have any questions regarding the role, you may contact Christine Kennedy Case Work Supervisor at kennedyc@methodistchurch.org.uk