

Safeguarding Policy (February 2024)

The MU Oxford Board of Trustees have adopted a new safeguarding policy based on a national safeguarding policy produced by the Britain and Ireland Board. The national policy includes the main policy and a number of more detailed appendices. Both can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/mothers-union-britain-safeguarding-policy-and-procedure>

The general approach to safeguarding issues is unchanged but there are important differences in some of the details:

1. Every MU activity or programme must have a Designated Safeguarding Lead. A Role Description is included in the Appendices document. Initially this role may be undertaken by the Branch leader. It is expected that MSH will provide some training for this role.
2. When starting a new activity, a Risk Assessment needs to be completed. A form for this is in the appendices.
3. If a Safeguarding issue arises, it is vital that a response is made within 24 hours, or immediately if someone is in danger.
 - a. If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger, or requires immediate medical attention, call emergency services on 999.
 - b. If you do not think there is a risk of immediate harm, you must speak to an official about your concern as soon as possible.
 - c. Where the activity takes place in a church building, refer immediately to the Parish Safeguarding Officer and where possible use them to handle cases via the Diocesan Safeguarding structure. But also keep Mary Sumner House (MSH) informed.
 - d. Where activity is elsewhere, still keep the Diocese informed, but use MSH as the primary route for support, and, by all means, ask the related parish for support and advice.
 - e. Where acting as a support for another charity, make sure that they have a robust safeguarding policy and process in place. They should take responsibility for safeguarding issues. Still keep MSH informed.
 - f. Be aware that other locations like village halls usually have information posted on noticeboards about who to contact in an emergency.
4. Trustees and other Leaders will be offered Safeguarding Awareness training through the central Mothers' Union. More information will be available soon.

General Contact Information:

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Denise Brown, Feb 2024