

Guidance for Dioceses

The Britain and Ireland Group have agreed the following guidelines for Mothers' Union diocesan Trustee Boards in Britain & Ireland:

1. At the first Trustee meeting in each year, and every time national, provincial or diocesan Anglican safeguarding procedures are significantly revised, the trustee board will adopt the Anglican diocesan/provincial safeguarding procedures for their activities. This will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
2. The diocesan trustee board will nominate a member:
 - to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of Mothers' Union activities across the diocese, including liaison with the Provincial/Diocesan Safeguarding Officer;
 - to ensure that safeguarding requirements are met for all activities or initiatives in the diocese; and
 - to be part of the Britain & Ireland Community of Interest for Safeguarding.
3. Annually, the board should review the roles in Mothers' Union activities in the diocese that include direct involvement with children, young people and adults at risk to ensure that those volunteers involved in the activities:
 - are appropriately recruited;
 - receive training, either in line with the Anglican provincial/diocesan guidelines or those of a partner organisation with whom Mothers' Union is working;
 - are aware of the relevant reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations.

It is expected that in most situations, Mothers' Union, at provincial, diocesan or local level, will follow the safeguarding policies and practices of the Anglican church, or those of any other external organisation that Mothers' Union is working with.

Guidance documents are provided to assist diocesan trustee boards in the area of safeguarding and to offer good practice guidelines to make it easier for Mothers' Union groups, branches and individual members to 'do the right thing' when it comes to safeguarding. Good safeguarding practice does not create barriers to our Mothers' Union outreach, but makes it possible for us to engage with vulnerable groups in our communities appropriately and safely, both for them and for our members.

No one is expected to know everything about safeguarding, but by following guidance and talking to those who have expertise in this area, we can show that we are doing everything possible to safeguard all those who come into contact with Mothers' Union.

If any Mothers' Union member, group or diocese chooses not to follow current guidance and a safeguarding incident were to occur, this can result in a loss of insurance cover and incur other liabilities, as well as having a negative impact on the reputation of Mothers' Union.