

# The Julian Meetings

## Safeguarding Policy



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## Introduction

The National Council is aware that many organisations, public and private, large and small, charitable and non-charitable are now criticised for not having safeguarding policies. The Council has, therefore, addressed the issue. We now offer guidance to our members; both for those times when we meet regularly in small groups, or the times when we may plan more public events, locally and regionally.

We recognise that all of us at some time may be vulnerable to abuse and that abuse comes in many forms - not simply the kinds that regularly hit the media headlines.

As Julian Meetings is a very disparate organisation - a network of many independent meetings - and run by volunteers, we cannot do more than issue guidelines. One concern is that, if anything untoward should happen in one meeting it would reflect on the organisation as a whole.

We have, therefore, written a set of principles which recognise our values as a Movement, together with more detailed protocols. One list of protocols applies to those regular small Julian Meetings held in private homes or Church/village hall premises. Another list applies to any regional or national 'day/weekend' event of a more public nature. One Council member has taken on the role of Safeguarding Officer and is the person to contact if any member has concerns.

We are also investigating Public Liability insurance but, in the meantime, we strongly advise that, if you organise an event, you check the appropriate levels of insurance you may need.

This is not something new - our booklet 'The Healthy Julian Meeting' has guidelines for various situations that Meetings might face with suggestions on how to prevent them or to deal with them if they occur. 'The ideal Julian Meeting' booklet states the cornerstones of Julian meetings traditions alongside the main ways in which we pursue our aims ensuring that everyone feels safe, secure and tranquil in our meetings. These new documents simply formalise how we hope we always value and respect each other. They raise awareness of how abuse, particularly emotional and spiritual abuse of power can arise in the most apparently normal settings. They may also make us aware of and sensitive to some who may be suffering abuse for reasons totally external to our meetings.

We therefore ask that those volunteers who are the 'contact' persons for each Meeting, familiarise themselves with these documents and that anyone organising a larger event sign the appropriate form so that we are assured that everyone is aware of any potential risks.

The documents will be sent to the first and second Contact person of every Meeting by post.

## **Principles** for the Safeguarding of all who attend Julian Meetings as well as Larger Public Events held by Julian Meetings, with or without other Organisations

- 1 The Julian Meetings Council is committed to the safeguarding of all
- 2 Safeguarding, for Julian Meetings concerns the physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological and sexual well-being of all who organise or attend Julian Meetings, or events organised by Julian Meetings. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all
- 3 Each person has different levels of vulnerability and each one of us may be vulnerable at some time in our lives
- 4 Meetings may be held in people's homes, or public buildings eg. church, chapel, community hall. Wherever located they are formally recognised and the Julian Meetings Council has a duty to raise awareness of safeguarding issues
- 5 Julian Meetings is committed to promoting safe practice by all people in positions of trust. Collusion or unwillingness to challenge can occur where a married couple or close friends are in sole charge of organising an event
- 6 Any concerns may be discussed, in the first instance, with the Safeguarding Officer named in the Magazine and the Convenor informed.  
Advice on any further issues should be sought from Social Services.  
Any serious incident should be reported to Social Services and/or the Police.

These principles will be reviewed biennially

Date      October 14 2016

Currently the Safeguarding Officer is Sue Derbyshire -

telephone 01794 651350

e-mail: [safeguarding@thejulianmeetings.net](mailto:safeguarding@thejulianmeetings.net)

and the Convenor is Sheana Barby -

telephone: 01332 383301

e-mail:- [convenor@thejulianmeetings.net](mailto:convenor@thejulianmeetings.net)

## **Protocols for all who attend regular Julian Meetings in both private homes or public venues.**

- 1 The first and second contacts for meetings should be fully aware of the Guidelines for the conduct of a meeting, recognising that they are in positions of trust
- 2 Julian Meetings may seem to be exclusive to the existing membership; it is the duty of all current members, numbers permitting, to welcome potential new members, recognising that they may feel vulnerable at first.
- 3 A Julian Meeting is 'single pointed', having only one purpose: to share the experience of contemplative prayer together. Meetings should not be diverted into divisive, hurtful discussions. Each member of a meeting has a duty to seek to ensure the well-being of all, recognising that 'abuse' comprises not only physical abuse but emotional and spiritual bullying
- 4 Members should feel free to raise questions if they feel that Julian Meetings traditions are not being observed. Every meeting is advised to undertake a 'health check', perhaps annually. This might be undertaken at a special gathering, or after a regular meeting.
- 5 Whilst regular meetings are not 'public events', all members of any Julian Meeting should be aware that any issues raised concerning the safety and wellbeing of young people or adults who may be at risk will be taken seriously.  
Any concerns that cannot be resolved in the meeting may be discussed with the Safeguarding officer and the Convenor of the Julian meetings informed  
Reports will be made to the appropriate authority as necessary

These protocols will be reviewed biennially

Date      October 14 2016

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## **Protocols for Events** organised by members of ‘The Julian Meetings’.

- 1 These Protocols cover public events such as:
  - Julian Meetings members’ days
  - Teaching events
  - Quiet Days
  - Workshops
  - Experiential workshops at events run by other organisations eg. Greenbelt, Soul Survivor, Cathedral Prayer Days etc.
  - Contemplation/Meditation
  - Labyrinths
- 2 The Julian Meetings Council seeks to ensure a consistently caring environment in which adults and children can develop and learn to contemplate/meditate in safety. Each person will be treated as an individual and with equal concern.
- 3 Everyone involved in the organisation or facilitating of any Julian Meetings public event or the Julian Meetings element of another organisation’s event, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, will be asked to sign a form of acceptance of Julian Meetings Safeguarding Principles and Protocols, which will be sent to the Safeguarding Officer. **(See page 8)**
- 4 Julian Meetings will ensure, as far as possible, that everyone working with children, young people, or adults who may be at risk, will know the nature of their work and be aware of the safeguarding issues. The organisers will need to ensure that appropriate DBS checks are made for eligible roles
- 5 Organisers of any JM event which is being held in an external venue should undertake a Risk Assessment beforehand.\* Public Liability Insurance for a public event is required. It may be possible to arrange this through the organisers or the venue concerned - if not then it is important that you have public liability insurance.  
Please see **page 6/7** for further advice and recommendations about insurance.
- 6 Copies of these Protocols will be made available to all volunteers and to parents/guardians/carers.
- 7 Any concerns may be discussed, in the first instance, with the Safeguarding Officer which may seek further advice.

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**Methodist Insurance** can offer their commercial policy.

<http://www.methodistinsurance.co.uk> Tel: 034560 61331

There is also useful information about risk assessment and safeguarding on their website.

1. They only provide annual policies. This would cover all regular meetings in public premises plus one-off events.
2. They will not cover groups meeting in private homes.
3. They will probably not cover claims for psychological harm.
4. Safeguarding – groups will have to show that they have met all the safeguarding requirements of the premises owner. Plus, of course, our own.

### **Other Providers and One-off Events, eg a quiet day**

These policies are obtained through commercial insurance brokers and online. Search for events insurance. The types of cover and exclusions are likely to be similar to the Methodist Insurance.

A typical provider is

<https://www.events-insurance.co.uk/public-liability-insurance>

These policies can cover individual events and also recurring events.

### **Summary**

It is strongly advisable to check what insurance cover is provided by the venue and what you may need to provide for your meeting. With regard to safeguarding issues you must ensure you meet the building owner's requirements and follow our guidelines, however you may not be covered in the event of a claim for abuse whether physical, spiritual or emotional. Meetings held in private homes will not be covered except by the homeowner's own policy and commonsense must apply. You should ensure you follow our safeguarding guidelines as far as possible.

**Finally** - Commonsense should always apply but this does not mean ignoring risks. You are strongly recommended to take out insurance for your group if required.



## Form of Acceptance of the Julian Meetings Principles and Protocols for 'Public Events'

Name of Event:

Location:

Date of Event:

Name of Julian Meeting(s) organising the event:

Is the event being run in partnership with another organisation? If so, please name the partner organisation:

I have read and accept the Julian Meetings Safeguarding Principles and Protocols

Signed

Print name

Event Role:

Address:

Date:

Please return the completed form to JM Safeguarding Officer Sue Derbyshire, 31 Nelson Close, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 7DA