

SW Synod Safeguarding Committee Report- March 2025

In 2024/5 there have been safeguarding developments within the national URC'

1.A national casework database is now in place designed to share relevant information across the URC. It will take some time to enter the backlog of historic cases but will have a significant positive impact in future

2.A URC national safeguarding caseworker post has been filled and is assisting this synod, and URC wide, in safeguarding casework both current and historic

3.URC Safeguarding training is now online for the basic level. Church elders should all have completed basic level safeguarding training. Church Safeguarding Coordinators should have completed the Advanced training. Further advice about who needs which levels of training is available from Claire Partridge, the Synod Safeguarding Officer

4.The annual URC safeguarding returns have been recently completed with many SW churches asking for paper copies rather than completing the return electronically.

5.Claire Partridge, our SSO, now runs a regular online Forum where Church Safeguarding Coordinators can get help with general queries or share any concerns.

In general the importance of effective safeguarding is growing across the national URC and the work done within the SW team is vitally important. Our thanks go to everyone who helps to protect everyone across the SW Synod in promoting and advancing this work.

Janet Raven

Safeguarding Committee Chair

4.3.2025

