

Domestic Abuse: A Charter for Churches

The Charter

Domestic abuse is extremely serious, and contrary to a Christian way of living. This church seeks to support those affected by domestic abuse, and their families.

This Church/Circuit:

- holds that domestic abuse, in all its forms, is unacceptable
- believes domestic abuse is inconsistent and incompatible with the Christian faith
- acknowledges that domestic abuse is a serious and widespread problem that occurs in church families as well as in wider society
- undertakes to listen to, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse
- prioritises the safety of survivors and children affected by domestic abuse
- works with specialist agencies, learning from and supporting them in appropriate ways, and publicising their work
- will play its part in teaching that domestic abuse is unacceptable and contrary to God's purposes and the teachings of the Bible.

Contact numbers:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

This is a freephone, 24-hour service.

Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership: 0800 052 7222
(24-hour helpline).

Model Policy for a Local Church/Circuit

Aims and intentions

This policy aims to ensure that domestic abuse is acknowledged and responded to appropriately within **Lindley Methodist Church**. To do this we will:

- 1 raise awareness about domestic abuse and its impact on individuals, children, the wider family and community
- 2 ensure that the safety of individuals suffering abuse or seeking help is the first priority, and be aware of the need for confidentiality (unless there are safeguarding concerns)
- 3 consider how best to provide support and information for anyone seeking help, including working with specialist agencies
- 4 encourage discussion of how our church can be a safer space for victims and survivors of domestic abuse
- 5 regularly discuss the Domestic Abuse policy, procedures, theology and principles that underpin it
- 6 adopt the Domestic Abuse Charter and display this in our churches and on social media
- 7 discuss domestic abuse with church leaders, including at the Church Council and Circuit Meetings
- 8 review this policy annually and monitor it continually.

This policy was adopted by Lindley Methodist Church Council on 24 May 2023

Next review date is May 2024