**TRAINING EXERCISE - CASE STUDIES**

**Case study 1**

As a part of the recruitment process for a volunteer to work with the children in Junior Church, the coordinator and two members of the Kirk Session (one of whom is yourself) have been asked to interview Cheryl, who has expressed an interest in volunteering. You do not know Cheryl, but during the interview, form a strong opinion that she is not suitable for the role. Her language is inappropriate, as are the attitudes she expresses about young people.

**How should you address your concerns?**

**What should happen next?**

**Case study 2**

You are approached by the Session Clerk, Arthur, to discuss a confidential matter. Arthur discloses that he is being investigated in relation to alleged child abuse. He is also the choir leader. During the conversation, Arthur finally admits that he has been charged with sexual offences relating to his step-children, who also attend Church with their mother. He has three step-children aged 7, 10 and 13. His wife (the children’s mother) is also a member of the congregation, but he states that they have separated as a result of the investigation and charges. Arthur states that he is feeling helpless and depressed.

**What is the concern in this scenario?**

**What should you do? What should happen next?**

**Any other considerations and next steps?**

**Case study 3**

Two female members of the congregation, Jill and Jen have recently disclosed that a pastoral care visitor, Jeremy sexually assaulted them some years ago. One disclosed to a district visiting elder during a call and the other to the minister. Both the minister and elder reported the disclosures to their safeguarding coordinator who reported it to the safeguarding service. There is now an ongoing police investigation and the safeguarding panel are managing things locally in relation to Jeremy’s suspension from his role of pastoral care visitor.

Amongst other things, The Safeguarding Service has advised to ensure that pastoral care for all parties is managed locally – the minister decides to provide pastoral care on a weekly basis for Jeremy and asks someone from the district team to visit Jill and Jen ‘at some point if they have the time’. The minister also remains a member of the panel for the case, as does Jeremys friend, Jason as he wants to ‘ensure Jeremys needs are not forgotten’.

Jeremy is a well-liked and active member of the congregation and there are ongoing discussions amongst the Kirk Session that Jill and Jen are probably blowing this out of proportion and that Jeremy has ‘always been that way with the ladies, and doesn’t mean any harm’.

**What is the main concern(s) in this scenario?**

**What should happen next? Any other considerations?**

**Case study 4**

During Sunday Service, an Elder recognised a former church attendee who had returned to worship. The Elder is aware that he had recently been released from Prison after being convicted of sending indecent images. He was a long-standing member of the Church before he went to prison and his mother is actively engaged in Church. The Elder decides he should raise it at the next Kirk Session meeting.

**Is this the appropriate action? If not, what should happen next?**

**Case study 5**

Julie worships in your congregation in Jerusalem. She is 44 years old and has decided that she is ready to disclose abuse that happened to her within a Church of Scotland congregation when she was between the ages of 10 and 14 years old. She speaks to her visiting elder about it and says that she thinks “she is ready to speak to the Church of Scotland about it as she is concerned he is still working with children in the church”, albeit in Scotland.

The elder reassures Julie and suggests that they pray and seek forgiveness and try to ‘put it to bed’ for her own health. The next day, she rings the safeguarding service directly and it transpires that the man is currently doing work with children in another church of Scotland congregation.

**What concerns do you have about this situation?**

**What should have been done in this situation?**

**Does anything else need to be considered?**