

Annual safeguarding report 2024

This report is created from data captured from the Annual Church Safeguarding Returns for 2023, time frame for submission. Further in-depth analysis will be reported to the September 2024

Introduction

81.8% of churches completed safeguarding annual returns.
5.3% of churches have no Safeguarding Co-ordinator.



Comments: There has been an increase in the percentage of churches completing their annual safeguarding return this year, which is positive, and also the number of churches without Safeguarding Co-ordinators had reduced, which is encouraging.

As a wider safeguarding team, we continue to raise the awareness of local churches to the additions to the URC Structure which were made following General Assembly 2021. They set the expectation for churches to submit their annual return, have a Safeguarding Co-ordinator in role and review their policy annually. As a safeguarding team, our hope is that as a denomination there is a shift in the safeguarding culture with all involved in the life of the URC,

Safeguarding concerns

Number of concerns related to children: 63, the main two categories of abuse that these reports fall under are physical abuse and neglect.

Number of concerns related to adults: 145, the three highest categories of abuse being supported

on previous years related to children which have historically been self-harm and mental health, whereas this year it is physical abuse and neglect. As a safeguarding team, we need to consider how we can support local churches in this area with training, resources and signposting.

