

## **Safeguarding Blog – September 2025**

### **Aiming High**

Evidently there are apps which enable you to set daily walking targets and if you reach them, you can get a reward. They seem to work on the step count principle but the proposed targets, in one case completing 12,000 steps each day for a week, seem rather too high for me to earn a discounted or free cup of coffee. To benefit, you really have to aim high.

Aiming High was the title of a pre-austerity government sponsored programme to invest in activities where disabled children and young people could aspire to higher levels of personal achievement. Funding was available to develop sports, leisure and cultural projects, and local authorities were charged with disbursing the extra cash through community partnership schemes. Individually tailored activity plans could also supply much needed short breaks for parents and carers.

Aiming high in safeguarding means being ambitious to get things right every time. To be fully compliant with safer recruitment and training requirements, and being on the ball, asking the right questions and seeking advice when a concern, however low level, is spotted. The reward, in the end, is to know that everything possible has been done to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse.

Unlike 12,000 steps a day, or delivering a short breaks programme, which can take a few hours out of your day, safeguarding action in church life should not be burdensome. I've heard it said that it should be a joy, but I'm not sure that it always feels like that if when you're chasing up DBS applications and nagging people to attend training. Nevertheless, having a clear focus, making dedicated time, and partnering with people who get the agenda to share the responsibility, can all help to provide that springboard to achieving high standards.

In due course safeguarding in Lincolnshire District will be audited as part of a Connexion-wide audit programme that is now almost two-thirds complete. When it happens it will be good to show the audit team that we, too, aim high. We'll let you know when it is!

Grahame Snelling

Independent Chair of Lincolnshire Methodist District Safeguarding Group