

The Children Act 1989 and 2000 (PRN 211)

1 The PLATO entry sets out the basic requirements of the act and makes reference to the Good Practice Pack and the need for CRB checks. Other useful publications are listed for reference.

Good Practice Among Children and Young People (SYN)

2 The Church is becoming more aware than ever that the work among young people and children should ensure that their safety is paramount. In particular, **The Children Act** became law in October 1991. While most church activities involving children and young people are exempt from the more stringent requirements of this Act because they last less than two hours on each occasion, we have a moral obligation to ensure their safety. This includes the following considerations:

- making the church aware of its responsibilities;
- examining the procedures for the appointment of youth and children's workers (including volunteers) and to guard against any kind of abuse;
- ensuring there are enough leaders and helpers present at any activity;
- providing adequate support for workers in this field;
- knowing how to deal with allegations of abuse, whether physical, sexual, emotional or neglect;
- the importance of adequate insurance for participants in youth and children's activities and the premises in which they take place;
- the provision of adequate first-aid cover;
- the training of leaders.

3 These and many other questions are addressed in the very helpful guide, produced by the United Reformed Church, entitled "Good Practice". A copy should be available, and carefully studied, in every church. Copies of the folder can be obtained from the national church offices in London.

4 Revision 4 of the Good Practice Pack is due to be launched at General Assembly 2012. Mr Leo Roberts the CYDO is available to help churches develop their responses to the needs of children and young people, including a local church's responsibilities for child protection/good practice. He can be contacted on 0161 789 5174 or ycwtdo@nwsynod.org.uk.