

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP)

Terms of Reference

These terms of reference are consistent with the Church of England safeguarding principles and guidelines set out in their safeguarding policies.

Objectives and vision:

To provide:

- Assurance that safeguarding policies and plans are in place to ensure all places of worship within the responsibility of the Diocese of Carlisle are safe places to frequent.
- An overview and scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements and process that are in place to ensure consistency, accountability, and transparency.
- Governance for safeguarding arrangements and proposals, seeking opportunities to continue to learn from safeguarding concerns, and to evolve and improve Diocese safeguarding arrangements.

Role and Functions:

The role of the Panel is to offer advice and to challenge the Diocese & Cathedral as a *'critical friend.'* Ultimately, the Diocesan Bishop and the Cathedral Chapter remain accountable for actions taken by the Church of England in the Diocese and in the Cathedral.

Functions are:

1. To provide a source of independent advice and expertise on sound safeguarding policies, procedures and practices to the Bishops and other senior clergy and officials.
2. To advise the Bishops and the Dean on whether, in the DSAP's view, the Diocese and Cathedral have clear and transparent safeguarding policies, working practices and training arrangements which are consistent with statutory requirements and House of Bishops' policy and practice guidance.
3. To contribute to the diocese's safeguarding strategy and its annual progress review.
4. To have particular regard to the rigour of the Church's responses to safeguarding concerns about church officers including proper reference to and liaison with statutory authorities.
5. To advise on appropriate measures for overseeing and monitoring the welfare of children and vulnerable adults from known and alleged offenders and others who might be a risk to them.
6. To advise on arrangements to support and monitor the implementation of good safeguarding practice in parishes in accordance with national and diocesan / cathedral policy and practice guidance.

7. To consider learning derived from case lessons learnt reviews, and advise on a diocesan or cathedral response including actions and any changes to local and national policy, procedure or practice which are indicated.
8. To monitor, and review, the diocesan and cathedral requirements relating to safer recruitment, DBS Disclosures and safeguarding training and advise accordingly.
9. To seek to ensure that there are clear safeguarding arrangements in place between the diocese, and those parts of the Church in the diocese, with their own decision-making bodies e.g. the Cathedral, Religious Communities, Theological Training Institutions and advise on any necessary action.
10. To have specific regard to the Church's responses to survivors of abuse perpetrated by church officers. Also, to consider responses to others in church settings who are survivors of abuse.
11. To advise the bishops and senior officials of the adequacy of resourcing for the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) / team including professional supervision, safeguarding training, reviewing processes and any assignments proposed by the DSAP which it is agreed should be undertaken.
12. To advise on what the diocese has put in place to hear the views of children and adults in need of care and support in relation to the arrangements to keep them safe whilst engaged in church activities.
13. To review, on an annual basis, the whistleblowing and complaints procedures and advise on any issues which appear to require attention.
14. To consider relevant matters referred by the Bishops, senior officials and the DSA including advising on diocesan responses to safeguarding consultations from the Government, the national Church and other parties.
15. To advise the Bishops, or the Cathedral Chapter, on any circumstances where the Diocese / Cathedral proposes to depart materially from the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies. To advise the National Safeguarding Team if the DSAP continues to consider that a safeguarding matter is not being dealt with properly in the Diocese or Cathedral.
16. To adopt and adhere to the Diocesan Safeguarding Development Plan for the DSAP based on its role and functions and diocesan safeguarding strategy and review progress annually.
17. To report as requested to the Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance.
18. To discharge its responsibilities by processes of scrutiny, support and constructive challenge having due regard to the National Church's Practice Guidance on safeguarding.

Frequency of Panel Meetings:

The DSAP will meet quarterly and more frequently if required.

Membership:

- Bishops nominated safeguarding lead.
- The Bishop's Chaplain/Chief of Staff
- The Diocesan Secretary
- The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
- The Canon Warden as Cathedral safeguarding lead representing the Cathedral Chapter.
- The Archdeacon with the Archdeacons' safeguarding lead
- An independent chair with a relevant safeguarding background at a senior level in a statutory, voluntary and or/ private organisation
- Communication lead for the Diocese and Cathedral
- At least three independent members with relevant current or recent child protection or adult safeguarding experience at a senior level in a statutory, voluntary or private organisation including social care, probation and police.
- A Parish Safeguarding Officer Representative.
- The Cumbria Methodist District Safeguarding Officer.
- A Clergy Parish Representative.
- Diocesan representatives will be invited on an annual basis to promote consistency of approach & practice across all diocesan activities. These will include senior representatives from the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, God for All, Network Youth Churches, and the Diocesan Board of Education.

The Chair of the Panel:

The independent Chair is appointed by the bishop for a period of three years, with an optional additional term of three years following a review.

Duties of the Chair of the DSAP:

1. To agree the agenda and minutes of the DSAP, chair the meetings and monitor the follow-up actions.
2. To undertake the responsibilities of the chair as specified in the role description in line with the role and function of the DSAP.
3. To conduct meetings of the DSAP in ways which enable all members to contribute their knowledge and skills and to clearly define those matters which are agreed for further action and those which are being passed to the diocese for further consideration.
4. To work with the Bishops, the Bishop's Leadership Team and other senior officials, to promote a constructive safeguarding relationship with the DSAP in the joint quest of achieving a safer Church and a healthy culture throughout the diocese.
5. To engage in the Chairs national and regional network meeting, as required.

Date: Updated & agreed by the DSAP 26th April 2022

Person responsible for document: Joanna Van Lachterop, DSA