

The Derby Diocesan Board of Finance Limited

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel – Independent Chair Role Specification

The Diocese of Derby

The Church of England (CofE) operates through 42 dioceses each under the leadership of its own Diocesan Bishop. The Diocese of Derby covers almost all of the County of Derbyshire except for a small area in the north, the City of Derby, and a small area of Staffordshire. The Church offers its ministry to the whole community, in the Diocese of Derby covering a population of around one million.

Within the Diocese there are more than 250 parishes and other ministry contexts, around 330 church buildings served by approximately 120 paid clergy, over 40 self-supporting ministers supported by over 180 clergy with a Permission to Officiate, 130 active readers and hundreds of volunteers.

The Diocesan Board of Finance employs around 50 people to resource the diocese of Derby. There are also 111 church schools within the Diocese governed by the Diocesan Board of Education.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) is the committee that provides advice to the Bishop of Derby on safeguarding policies and scrutiny of culture, working practices, and training arrangements which are consistent with statutory requirements and House of Bishops' policy and prance guidance.

The DSAP is made up of senior staff within the Diocese and Cathedral alongside representatives from statutory and partner agencies who provide safeguarding services to the County of Derbyshire and the Unitary Authority of Derby City.

The DSAP is chaired by the Independent Chair in line with the National [Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies Practice Guidance](#).

Appointment Accountability

The DSAP Chair is accountable to The Bishop of Derby and Diocesan Secretary. The role of Independent Chair is important in ensuring that safeguarding provision within the Diocese and is subject to robust and independent scrutiny. The Chair acts as a critical friend, supporting and encouraging as appropriate, but also providing challenge where necessary. The appointment of an Independent Chair shows the commitment of the CofE to ensuring that safeguarding is handled in a transparent and professional way. For this reason, the Independent Chair should not be in any other role within the Diocese.

The appointment of this role will be made for a three-year term initially, with a possible extension at the end of the three years, subject to evaluation.

Role Description

Frequency of meetings: The DSAP will meet quarterly and more frequently if needs be.

Duties of the Chair:

1. To provide effective leadership to the DSAP, agreeing the agenda and minutes with the Bishop of Derby and Diocesan Secretary as advised by the DSA, to chair the meetings, and monitor the follow-up actions.
 2. To ensure the DSAP discharges its role and functions in line with its terms of reference.
 3. To ensure that the group considers the needs of victims/survivors and those affected by abuse, ensuring that appropriate skills and experience are represented on the DSAP including from statutory and voluntary partners.
 4. To work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and senior leadership team to ensure that the DSAP is adequately resourced, that there is sufficient capacity and diversity of skillset and experience/background of members. To be involved in recruitment and succession planning.
 5. To provide an ad hoc point of contact for DSAs/Bishop of Derby or nominated person/members of the group outside of formal supervisory and management arrangements.
 6. Where necessary to advise the Bishop of Derby/senior leadership team of specific concerns/issues. Where appropriate to raise and report any concerns/issues as part of whistle blowing arrangements.
 7. To engage in the chairs national and regional network meetings, as required.
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Qualifications, Knowledge, and Experience:

Essential

Recent, direct, and extensive professional safeguarding experience and expertise at a senior level in a relevant statutory, voluntary or judicial agency (for example local authority children and adult service, police, national children's charity).

Ability to chair meetings at Board level, understanding the non-executive function of such a Board.

A confident and empowering leadership style with the ability to strategically plan, manage meetings effectively and influence people to build capacity and confidence in safeguarding practice.

An ability to promote and represent DSAP at all levels both internally and externally.

Experience of case reviews, risk management and engagement and leadership of strategic partnerships.

Up to date knowledge of multi-agency safeguarding practice and processes, legislation and current developments.

In sympathy with the aims of the Church of England.

Terms and Conditions

The Independent Chair will be paid an honorarium at a fixed amount of £3,000 per annum irrespective of the number of hours worked, however there is an expectation that the role will take up to 1 day per month averaged out across the year.

Additional expenses will be covered by either the National Church or the Diocese.