**The Diocese of Ely**

**Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel**

1. ***Contextual Framework***
* The Church of England’s document ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ (2016) requires each diocese to convene a defined group of safeguarding professionals from local agencies and organisations, and from within the diocese. It states that this group should have clear terms of reference and be accountable to, and regularly report to, the diocesan Bishop, the diocesan Synod and diocesan Board of Finance. Within the Diocese of Ely, the Bishop takes the lead role and responsibility in respect of safeguarding. He is supported in this by the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel offers strategic support and advice.
* The Diocese of Ely’s vision and strategy document ‘People Fully Alive: Ely 2025’ identifies five ‘levers for change’. Safeguarding work particularly contributes to three of these, namely ‘Develop healthy churches and leaders’, Serve the community’ and ‘Target support to key areas.’ Historically the Church of England has sometimes been reluctant to recognise and challenge abusive behaviours within it. This nettle is beginning to be grasped, and the Ely Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel aims to play an important role in supporting this direction of travel.
1. ***Underpinning principles***
* Safeguarding work within the Diocese of Ely is underpinned by the principle of seeking to achieve best practice. This includes compliance with the policies and practice guidelines published by the House of Bishops and the Church of England National Safeguarding Team.
* The Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Team values its established links with partner-organisations, always seeking to strengthen and broaden these. Inter-agency perspectives and experience contribute greatly to the diocese’s holistic approach to safeguarding.
* Safeguarding work involves sensitivity and respect for confidentiality. These are fundamental elements of all Ely’s DSAP’s discussions and decisions.
* The Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Team seeks to embed an ever-increasing understanding of abusive behaviours and their impact on survivors among all those working, volunteering or worshipping within its parishes.
1. ***Functions of the DSAP***
* The primary purpose of the DSAP is to focus on safeguarding children, young people and adults who may be at risk of harm within the context of Church activities.
* To provide a source of independent advice and expertise on sound safeguarding policies, procedures and practices to the diocesan bishop and other senior clergy and officials.
* To advise the bishop on whether, in the DSAP’s view, the diocese has clear and transparent safeguarding policies, working practices and training arrangements which are consistent with statutory requirements and House of Bishops’ policy and practice guidance.
* To contribute to the diocese’s safeguarding strategy and its annual progress review.
* 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.
* 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.
* To advise on arrangements to support and monitor the implementation of good safeguarding practice in parishes in accordance with national and diocesan policy and practice guidance.
* To consider learning derived from case lessons learnt reviews and advise on a diocesan response including actions and any changes to local and national policy, procedure or practice which are indicated.
* To monitor the diocesan requirements relating to safer recruitment, DBS Disclosures and safeguarding training and advise accordingly.
* 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.
* To have particular regard to the Church’s responses to survivors of abuse perpetrated by church officers.
* To advise the bishop and senior officials of the adequacy of resourcing for the diocesan safeguarding adviser/team including professional supervision, safeguarding training, reviewing processes and any assignments proposed by the DSAP which it is agreed should be undertaken.
* 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.
* To review regularly the whistleblowing and complaints procedures and advise on any issues which appear to require attention.
* To consider relevant matters referred by the bishop, senior officials and the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager (DSM) including advising on diocesan responses to safeguarding consultations from the Government, the National Church and other parties.
* To advise the bishop on any circumstances where the diocese 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 other church body.
* To adopt and adhere to a simple annual work programme for the DSAP based on its role and functions and the diocesan safeguarding strategy and review progress annually.
* To report as requested to the Bishop’s Council/Diocesan Synod and Board of finance, as required.
* To discharge its responsibilities by processes of scrutiny, support and constructive challenge having due regard to the National Church’s Practice Guidance on safeguarding.
* The DSAP supports the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in the operation of their roles, especially in the principles of assessing and monitoring of those, connected with the Church, who are considered to pose a risk to children or adults.
* The full DSAP will meet on a quarterly basis. Time-limited sub-groups may be formed, as required, to explore specific issues or dilemmas, and to report back to the full DSAP on their findings/proposals.
1. ***Membership***
* DSAP meetings will be chaired by an independent, lay appointee, in accordance with House of Bishops’ policy.
* All members will be formally agreed by the Bishop.

The Diocese of Ely will be represented by ;

* Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
* Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (also Note-taker and administrator)
* One member of the Bishop’s senior team
* One incumbent with a safeguarding role
* Chapter Safeguarding Lead, Ely Cathedral

Partner agencies and organisations will be represented by managers from the following :

* County Council LADO
* County Council, Adult Services
* Deputy Director of Mission and Ministry, Diocese of Ely
* Police
* Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVA) Operational Manager/MARAC Chair.(Survivor Advocate)
* Senior Probation Officer
* Representative from County Council Education Directorate
* Representative from the Integrated Care Board
* Additional Diocesan or partner professionals, with specialist expertise, may be requested to attend to advise on specific issues or Agenda items.
* The Diocesan Communications Officer’s advice will be sought, notably where media coverage of a particular situation seems probable.

*Quoracy of DSAP meetings*

This will consist of the Independent Chair, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and five others including a minimum of three partner agency representatives and one Diocesan representative.

1. **Review of Terms of Reference**

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Independent Chair to ensure that they continue to reflect the priorities and needs of safeguarding work within the Diocese of Ely.

**Reviewed January 2024**