

# **Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - Background paper**

## **Introduction**

The diocese of Chester has recently undertaken an independent review of the safeguarding provision in the diocese. This post has been developed in response. The recommendations of the review are still being implemented so there may be some minor changes to the role in due course.

The diocese is currently seeking to implement the recommendations of the recently published Pearl Review and IICSA report.

## **The Diocese of Chester**

Like other dioceses in the Church of England, the Diocese of Chester has been, and continues to be, on a journey of improvement in the area of safeguarding. The safeguarding provision is being increased to assist the diocese to embed cultural change.

There is a Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) which meets three times a year. The Panel is made up of representatives of external bodies (the police, education, NHS and voluntary sector) parish representatives, and relevant diocesan and cathedral staff. The appointment of an independent chair of DSAP has recently been completed.

The Safeguarding Team, reporting to the Diocesan Secretary, comprises the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), a Policy and Training Officer and a PA/Administrator. In addition to its work for the diocese, the DSA also provides support to the cathedral dean and a limited safeguarding service for Chester Cathedral. It is anticipated that some of the work with the cathedral would be delegated to the Assistant DSA.

Each parish within the Diocese has its own Safeguarding Officer who is responsible for implementing safeguarding policy at parish level. It is a strongly held belief that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and the diocese seeks to ensure that culture change takes root and the churches are truly a place where people are safe and can flourish.

## **Context**

The Church of England has national policies and procedures for safeguarding to apply UK legislation and best practice. These national policies are promoted by the House of Bishops through the General Synod, the current key policies are available via the link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>

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