

Bishop's Safeguarding Management Group (BSMG) – Terms of Reference & Membership

The following Terms of Reference were agreed at a meeting of the Bishop's Safeguarding Management Group on 9th May 2019.

Role and Functions

1. 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.

The BSMG will continue to seek to recruit independent professional experts that reflect the diversity of the local population, to both its membership and the membership of its sub-groups:

Safeguarding Policy Reference Group

Safeguarding Training Reference Group

Casework Scrutiny Group

The BSMG will establish an annual Briefing & Consultation Forum to ensure that it listens to and considers the experiences of key parish and BDBF representatives on the impact and implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures across the diocese

2. To advise the bishop on whether, in the BSMG'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.
3. To contribute to the diocese's safeguarding strategy and its annual progress review.

The BSMG will consider the strategy for an area of safeguarding – casework & policy (spring term), recruitment & training (summer term), parish support & quality assurance (autumn term) in more depth at each of its meetings.

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 policy and practice guidance.
7. 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.
8. To monitor the diocesan 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 particular regard to the Church's responses to survivors of abuse perpetrated by church officers.

BSMG to receive feedback via link and support people as appropriate for discussion and recommendations for future practice

11. To advise the bishop and senior officials of the adequacy of resourcing for the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and safeguarding 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.

BSMG to consult with the Growing Younger Facilitator in order to offer advice

13. To review regularly the whistleblowing and complaints procedures and advise on any issues which appear to require attention.
14. To consider relevant matters referred by the bishop, senior officials and the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead including advising on diocesan responses to safeguarding consultations from the Government, the National Church and other parties.

15. 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 BSMG continues to consider that a safeguarding matter is not being dealt with properly in the diocese or other church body.
16. To adopt and adhere to a simple annual work programme for the BSMG based on its role and functions and the diocesan safeguarding strategy and review progress annually.
17. To report as requested to the Bishop's Council/Diocesan Synod and Board of finance, as required.

BSMG to report annually at July Diocesan Synod

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.

Membership

Independent Chair
Diocesan Bishop
Bishop's Chaplain
Diocesan Secretary
Diocesan Safeguarding Lead
Archdeacon of Aston
Archdeacon of Birmingham
Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser
Safeguarding Training & Development Officer
Safeguarding Support Officer
Dean of Cathedral
Two External Professionals
Parish Safeguarding Officer representative

The chair will be appointed by the diocesan bishop, in consultation with the BSA. The bishop and BSA will consult the chair on the choice of members.

The BSMG will have discretion to advise the bishop on the appointment of additional members on a permanent or ad hoc basis having due regard to the House of Bishops' advice on membership.

Initial appointments will be for three years with an additional term of three years following a review of commitment and contribution

Appointments to the BSMG will follow the Church's Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance. All new members will have an induction organised by the BSA in consultation with the chair.

Chair

The independent chair will be appointed by the bishop for a period of three years, with an additional term of three years following a review.

Frequency of meetings

The BSMG will meet four times per annum, to include an annual Briefing & Consultation Forum and more frequently if needs be.

Duties of Chair

1. To agree the agenda and minutes of the BSMG, 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 BSMG.
3. To conduct meetings of the BSMG in ways which enable all members to contribute their knowledge and skills and to delineate clearly 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 diocesan bishop, the diocesan senior leadership team and other senior officials to ensure a constructive relationship with the BSMG in the joint quest of achieving a safer Church.
5. To engage in the chairs national and regional network meeting, as required.

Chair specification

The Chair should be an independent lay person (independent means neither employed by the diocese nor discharging managerial functions in the diocese) capable of ensuring that the BSMG's advisory and scrutiny functions are carried out effectively. The chair will have extensive professional safeguarding expertise in a relevant statutory, voluntary or judicial agency.

Date: 9th May 2019

Person responsible for document: Safeguarding Training & Development Officer

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