



CANTERBURY DIOCESAN AND CATHEDRAL SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY PANEL (DCSAP)



Statement of Aims (updated March 2026)

The Diocesan & Cathedral Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DCSAP) exists to support and strengthen the Diocese of Canterbury and Canterbury Cathedral in living out their commitment to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults, in accordance with the national Church of England policy and practice guidance, statutory requirements and the highest professional and moral standards.

In fulfilling this purpose, the DCSAP aims to:

1. Provide independent advice, support and constructive challenge

- Offer expert external scrutiny of the Diocese's and Cathedral's safeguarding arrangements – including policies, procedures, training, culture and practice – so that they remain robust, responsive and aligned with best practice.
- Act as a critical friend to the Bishop, senior leadership, Cathedral Chapter and safeguarding teams.
- Promote transparency, learning and continuous improvement in safeguarding across all levels of the diocesan and cathedral church life.

2. Promote accountability, oversight and assurance

- Monitor the implementation of safeguarding strategies, frameworks and local practices, requesting, reviewing and monitoring evidence of how safeguarding commitments are fulfilled.
- Review the quality of safeguarding practice via audits, case reviews, lessons learnt work and other assurance mechanisms.
- Report to the Bishop's Council, Cathedral Chapter, and any other relevant governance structures, on safeguarding matters, identifying strengths, risks and areas requiring further development.
- Seeking assurance that safeguarding resources (human, financial and organisational) are adequate and are used effectively to meet the stated safeguarding objectives, having due regard for Appendix I of 'Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies Practice Guidance.'

3. Promote a culture of listening to survivors, victims and those affected by abuse

- Actively engage with survivors of abuse (past or present) and advocate that their voice contributes to policy, procedure, culture and learning within the Diocese and Cathedral.
- Satisfy itself that responses to survivors are compassionate, timely and informed by good practice, and that opportunities for dialogue, reflection and improvement are facilitated.

- Encourage openness about safeguarding, learning from incidents and embedding survivor-centred and trauma-informed approaches.

4. Support prevention, safe recruitment and risk management

- Advise on safer recruitment, selection, induction and supervision of clergy, staff and volunteers, seeking assurance that all those who serve in the Diocese and/or Cathedral are trustworthy and properly supported, seeking evidence of compliance with safer recruitment practices.
- Promote safe working practices, the management of known or potential risks, and effective safeguarding agreements for those who may pose a risk but are part of church/Cathedral life.
- Seek assurance that safeguarding training is accessible, relevant and up-to-date, delivered with fidelity across parishes, Cathedral and reflect wider best practice.

5. Facilitate partnership and collaboration with statutory agencies and wider church family

- Seek assurance that the Diocese and Cathedral have effective working relationships with statutory safeguarding agencies and that multi-agency cooperation is evident and robust.
- Encourage the sharing of learning and good practice within the national Church of England safeguarding network, with other dioceses, cathedrals and external bodies.
- Maintain an outward-looking mindset, recognising that all safeguarding responsibilities sit within a broader public and social context.

6. Foster a safe environment and culture

- Encourage the development of a culture in which safeguarding is integral to mission, ministry and worship.
- Promote awareness of safeguarding across all levels of diocesan and Cathedral life, supporting the growth and spiritual lives of safe, inclusive, respectful and open communities.
- Support the work of parishes, the Cathedral and diocesan structures to embed safeguarding as a shared responsibility.