



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

Recognised Local Leader: A Guide for PCCs

A. Introduction

This document is to help PCCs consider, recommend and work with those called to be a Recognised Local Leader in their own unique settings. This role is not mandatory nor recommended for every benefice. PCC members need to weigh together whether or not the appointment of someone to this role will support and enable the mission and ministry in their local context.

B. Process.

These are the steps you need to take and the associated questions you need to answer as a PCC working with the Incumbent.

1. Consider

What plans does the PCC have to take the mission and ministry of the parish forward in their unique witness and service? The Growing in God materials (<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/growing-your-parish/growing-in-god-resources/>) are available to help to develop and sharpen the focus around this, and as a result create a compelling narrative around which the church community can gather.

Once this plan is in place the PCC can then address the question as to whether this role will help to grow and develop the church in its mission and ministry. How might it work for you where you are? There are a number of benefices who are already working with people in this role and it would be worthwhile for a designated person from the PCC to find out about them.

What is God's vision for this church over the next 5 years?

How would someone in this role enable the growth of the church's mission and ministry?

2. Communicate

The next step is for the Incumbent to communicate this idea to the wider church community, (perhaps in the context of a vocational push), explaining what ministries there are nationally and locally for people to grow into. The PCC and Incumbent should also consider who they think might be suitable in this role. This should be accompanied by an emphasis on praying for the right people to come forward, including this exploration in the pew sheet and intercessions.

Are we ready to go forward with a person in this role?

Who might be the right person?

3. Explore

Once a candidate has been identified they will need to complete the necessary paperwork in consultation with the incumbent. If they already hold a licensed or commissioned role they will need to complete a role agreement that is approved by the incumbent (which requires a minuted agreement by the PCC) and ongoing training needs and opportunities.

If they do not hold a licensed or commissioned role, they will be required to complete a full application for this role, which will involve taking up references and an interview with the Mission and Ministry Department.

Has the candidate's application received a minuted agreement by the PCC?

Has the Incumbent agreed a role description with them?

4. Authorise/Support.

If the person is recommended for this role in the local church, they will then need to follow some foundational training for this role. Any further training will be tailored around what the person has done.

The person will need to ensure they have a new DBS check against their new role description, and that their safeguarding training is up to date.

Once everything is in place, the person will be commissioned in their local church by the Incumbent at a main service. A poster should then be placed in the porch or on a church noticeboard giving some biographical details to introduce the person, and to provide contact details.

Further ongoing training will be offered as part of a cohort of others who have been commissioned for this role across the diocese.

Has the person recommended completed a new DBS for this role?

Is their safeguarding training up to date?

Is the person ready to continue to learn throughout their ministry?

C. Further Questions

If you have any further questions, please contact Revd Phil Dykes in Mission and Ministry at the diocesan office – phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org .

Version 4.0, Updated February 2022