



RC DIOCESE OF ARGYLL AND THE ISLES

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group

Introduction

The bishop is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the safeguarding arrangements within his diocese are properly embedded within a culture of care and the role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group (DSAG) is to support him with this. (IGlv2, 6.2.1)

The purpose of the DSAG:

The purpose of the DSAG is to ensure that the Bishop and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) receive the necessary advice, support and expertise in relation to child protection and vulnerable adult issues to enable them to fulfil the requirements of IGlv2 and to ensure diocesan-wide adherence to these standards. The DSAG will support the bishop to ensure that the strategic planning and organisation of safeguarding within the diocese are secure and well-regulated.

By authorising meetings of the DSAG, the bishop will demonstrate leadership and personal commitment to keeping people safe, and to assist those who have suffered experience of abuse to find healing and rebuilding trust in the Church. (IGlv2, 6.2.1)

Recruitment to the DSAG:

Members of the DSAG will be appointed by the bishop and will consist of people with relevant experience and skills. They must include the DSA, Vicar Episcopal for Safeguarding as well as representatives from among the clergy, Parish Safeguarding Coordinators (PSCs), Retreat Centres and other individuals with specific expertise. (IGlv2, 6.2.3)

Responsibilities of the DSAG:

The main responsibilities of the DSAG are to:

- to support the Bishop and DSA in their safeguarding responsibilities in the Diocese;

- to ensure diocesan-wide adherence to the safeguarding standards as described in In God's Image v2;
- to discuss on-going issues relating to safeguarding arrangements in the Diocese;
- to contribute to, and ensure participation in, the Church's annual audit exercise;
- to analyse of the annual Safeguarding Audits – at both parish and diocesan levels;
- to approve the Diocesan Safeguarding Action Plan and monitor its progress;
- to review Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Procedures on a rolling basis;
- to plan the relevant safeguarding training for clergy, PSCs and volunteers;
- To oversee the on-going development of a Culture of Care in all aspects of safeguarding as described in IGlv2.

DSAG Meetings:

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group will meet at least quarterly and more frequently if necessary. A quorum of four members, in addition to the bishop, is required for a meeting. Meetings can be held in person, on-line or a combination of both.

The meeting can be chaired by the bishop or another member of the group, but not by the DSA.

The DSA and the Training Overseer will submit reports to the Safeguarding Secretary prior to the meeting. These will be circulated, together with the agenda and minutes of the previous, at least a week before the meeting. The Safeguarding Secretary will take the minutes of the meeting.

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