**Safeguarding Panel: Safeguarding Principles of the Diocese and Structure and Functions of the Panel**

The Hierarchy of Safeguarding Priorities for the Diocese of Manchester

1. **Prevention, as far as possible, from future harm.**

We embrace, as a fundamental aspect of living out our Christian vocation, our responsibility to do all that is in our power to provide a safe church environment for all. We will have safeguarding policies and procedures which are fully compliant with our legal responsibilities, national policy and current best practice and we will implement those rigorously.

1. **Justice for past failings**

We accept that “we are called to live in the justice of God”. The Diocese of Manchester embraces the call from the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a culture that looks to “justice for survivors”

1. **Pastoral Support for victims**

A truly compassionate response from the church recognises that survivors have a right to be heard and for their pain and hurt to be acknowledged. In some cases, they want their voice heard by someone within the local church, in others they want an independent ear to hear. We will provide that support at the appropriate level for survivors of abuse. Many also want to know that others are protected from the abuse that they suffered. They also need to hear from us our commitments under priority one.

1. **Maximum transparency within the limits of legal and pastoral confidentiality**

Transparency is essential to maintain the credibility of our safeguarding commitment and procedures. The roles and responsibilities of individuals, the DBF (Diocesan Board Finance), parishes and other relevant bodies, must be clear along with the lines of accountability.

1. **Pastoral support for offenders (or those accused)**

The Christian Church offers the assurance to all that God will not reject them, and we do not close our doors to those who have offended, or who have been accused. However, this support will never override our commitment to protect or provide justice.

1. **Management of safeguarding issues to protect the interests of the Diocese and the Church of England in a manner consistent with priorities 1 – 4**

We openly acknowledge that the interests and flourishing of the Church should be considered in our management of safeguarding matters. However, we will never allow these considerations to override our responsibilities to protect from future harm or provide justice and support for survivors

**Functions**

The objectives of the Panel are determined by the diocesan hierarchy of safeguarding priorities.

They are to:

1. develop policies and procedures (consistent with relevant national legislation and/ or guidance) for safeguarding children and adults and promoting a safe church
2. oversee the implementation of those policies and procedures
3. design and oversee the development and delivery of training programmes at all levels in the diocese
4. ensure effective liaison with all relevant Statutory Agencies
5. exercise oversight of the case management of safeguarding issues
   1. ensure case management is being effectively handled
      1. Monthly comprehensive anonymised reports will be submitted to BLT on all extant Safeguarding cases
      2. Each quarter these reports will be collectively submitted to the safeguarding panel
      3. The Chair will review these cases with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor to determine if any should be the subject of detailed consideration by the panel (for example where such a case would benefit from professional input or where lack of progress is causing concern)
      4. BLT (Bishops Leadership Team) can refer specific cases to the panel for detailed review
      5. The Safeguarding panel can call up any cases for detailed review
   2. ensure arrangements are in place for the pastoral care of individuals and communities affected by safeguarding allegations
   3. support and advise on matters relating to long term arrangements for

members of the Church (clergy and laity) who are known abusers

1. oversee the operation of Diocesan Disclosure and Barring Service procedures
2. raise awareness of safeguarding issues in the diocese
3. be responsible for audit and review of safeguarding in the diocese
4. ensure the preparation of the annual report on safeguarding activity and submission to the national Church

**Frequency of Meeting**

The Panel will meet quarterly

**Independent Chair**

The Chair of the panel will remunerated for up to 12 days work at an agreed rate (to include chairing of Panel meetings). The position will be filled by a recruitment process.

**Membership**

* Independent Chair
* Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
* Diocesan Secretary
* Bishop’s Chaplain
* Cathedral Administrator
* Education Department
* A Parish Safeguarding Officer
* Representatives of:
  + GM Police
  + Local Authority Designated Officer
  + Probation
  + Churches Child Protection Advisory Service
  + Social Services
  + Children
  + Adult