



Diocesan Synod

Paper Reference	7.2 – Safeguarding Update– for information
Meeting and Date	25 th June 2025
Paper Submitted by	Suzy Futcher
Last considered by this meeting on (meeting if applicable)	Regular Safeguarding Update provided for each meeting
What is required of this meeting? Receive	Receive (and comply with House of Bishop’s Safeguarding Code of Practice)
State the relevant mandate of this committee that enables it to take the above action. (legislation)	Diocesan Synod is the statutory governing body of the Diocese of Salisbury which consist of ‘Church Bodies’, and its members are all ‘Church Officers’ and therefore required to follow House of Bishops policy/guidance/Code of Practice.

Regular Safeguarding Update

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item within every Diocesan Synod meeting. On some occasions safeguarding items will be discussed by Synod, and other times they will be for reference only. The following updates are for reference only by Synod. Please feel free to follow up directly with me with any questions arising.

New Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) Chair

The DSAP provides an essential oversight and scrutiny function for safeguarding practice within the diocese. Emily Denne has been appointed as the new independent chair and we look forward to the support and challenge she will bring. Emily, who is a safeguarding consultant, has worked in safeguarding roles for almost two decades initially in the probation service. She has experience of supporting and advocating for victims and survivors within the Church of England and in a senior role within the support service ‘Fear Free’.

Adoption of House of Bishop’s Guidance

As a recommendation of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) House of Bishop’s guidance regarding safeguarding is moving away from guidance for church officers to pay ‘Due Regard’ to and instead shifting towards a Safeguarding Code of Practice which has a ‘Duty to Comply’.

Here are the most recent updates to the Code of Practice for members of Diocesan Synod to be aware of:

- [Managing Safeguarding Concerns and Allegations \(February 2025\)](#) – this policy comes into effect in September 2025 and mostly relates to how the Safeguarding Team deal with concerns and allegations

and details how these should be dealt with in relation to Church Officers. The Safeguarding Team and other stakeholders (such as DSAP Chair, and people who lead Safeguarding Case Management Groups) are receiving training from the National Safeguarding Team in relation to the implementation of this policy.

- [Reporting Safeguarding Concerns and Allegations \(February 2025\)](#) – this policy emphasises the responsibility of all Church Officers to respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns and outlines the limits of confidentiality. It is in effect equivalent to the principle of ‘mandatory reporting’ which is currently being debated within government and was a recommendation of [Alexis Jay](#). The practice outlined in this policy has already been modelled and promoted by the Safeguarding Team for the past few years so is already common practice within the diocese.
- [Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework \(July 2024\)](#) – minor changes to the previous version of this policy. The Safeguarding Team have incorporated the changes into their practice and communicated changes to Parish Safeguarding Officers.
- [Safeguarding in Acknowledged Religious Communities](#) and [Safeguarding in Recognised Religious Communities](#) (both February 2025) – the Safeguarding Team are currently reviewing the practice of these policies as they relate to the relevant communities within the Diocese and will provide DSAP with a report and any recommendations of changes to practice.

House of Bishop’s guidance such as the policies listed above and the implementation of these within the diocese are reviewed and monitored by DSAP.

Healthy Cultures Survey

During 2025 the results of a Healthy Cultures Survey which had taken place within the Diocese were analysed and published. [Here is the publication.](#) Running the survey was one of the recommendations out of the INEQE Independent Safeguarding Audit which took place in January 2024. Results of the survey have been reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team of the Diocesan Board of the Finance, the Bishop’s Leadership Team, DSAP and Bishop’s Council. The Safeguarding Team are creating resources for parishes to be able to use the survey report to help further promote healthy safeguarding cultures.

I welcome any questions either directly to the Safeguarding Team (safeguarding@salisburydiocese.org), or via the Diocesan Synod route.

Suzy Futchner
Head of Safeguarding