

NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING PANEL

Terms of Reference

The National Safeguarding Panel is an independent panel led by the Independent Chair. Its Terms of Reference and composition are determined by the Archbishops' Council. It will:

1. Provide high level strategic advice and offer guidance on policies and practice in safeguarding seeking to ensure that the Church of England meets accepted best practice.
2. Provide scrutiny and challenge to the church for its work on safeguarding including examining existing and proposed policies in depth and the regular analysis of the data compiled in the areas of
 - Prevention through promotion of safeguarding,
 - Responding to current concerns or disclosures,
 - Responding to non-current concerns or disclosures,
 - Support for Survivors

The panel will determine a work programme. Outside of meetings the Chair will consult with three representatives of the panel regarding items for the agenda. These to include one survivor representative, one person from the Church of England, and one representative of the expert members.

The panel will consider and comment on the National Safeguarding Team's annual work plan and make recommendations for priorities. It will consider papers on matters prepared by the National Safeguarding Team. It will undertake in-depth consideration of key areas of concern and proposed developments and ensure appropriate input to the National Safeguarding Steering Group. The Director of Safeguarding will ensure that the Chair is kept informed of its work. The panel can ask for Church personnel to attend to speak to papers and to answer questions. The panel will ensure complementarity with the church's work with survivors. However, the panel does not have a role in relation to individual cases. Specific approaches or enquiries will be referred to the Director of Safeguarding.

The Chair will provide regular reports on its work and present an annual report presented to the National Safeguarding Steering Group.

Role of Independent Chair

In addition to chairing the panel, the Chair will work closely with the Director of Safeguarding in preparation of agendas and to ensure the effective functioning of the panel. The Chair will maintain oversight of key business, attending other meetings as and when required and will meet panel members outside the meeting as required.

Composition of the panel

Independent Chair – externally recruited with 3-year term renewable for a further maximum of 2 years.

Safeguarding representative of Methodist Church

Safeguarding representative of Catholic Church

2 members with expertise in children's safeguarding

2 members with expertise in adult safeguarding

1 member with experience of working with offenders

3 representatives of survivor organisations

The following Church representatives will be "in attendance" at the Panel's meetings: lead and deputy lead bishops on safeguarding; representatives of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; and the Director of Safeguarding.

Operation of the panel

The panel will meet up to 6 times a year. Meetings will normally last for no more than 3 hours with a break. The panel will normally meet in London to allow access for panel members from all over the country.

8 March 2019