

Synod Policy Statement

TITLE: Safeguarding – Structure and Process

Principles

- There should be only one body accountable on behalf of the Synod for Safeguarding policy within the Wales Synod.
- Advice, information, training and help with implementation of Connexional and Synod policy may be done by more than one group and this is best done as locally as possible, using people with local knowledge.
- Bodies and groups should be of a manageable size and have a deliverable workload.
- Joint working between the Wales Synod and Synod Cymru should be maintained.
- The term Safeguarding, rather than child protection, is used to recognise the wider role in work with vulnerable adults as well as children.

Structure

There will be one joint Safeguarding Advisory Group (SAG) for the two Synods in Wales. It will operate through two regional panels with slightly differing responsibilities. The Northern Panel will be responsible for policy issues. There is no expectation that the two panels will routinely meet together as one Group but the Synod Safeguarding Officers may convene such a meeting if it ever proves necessary.

The Group will report - via the Northern Panel - to the two Synods independently, although with the aim of promoting common policy and practice across both.

Communication between the Panels will be via the two Wales Synod Safeguarding Officers being present at meetings of both panels and working closely together. The Synod Cymru Safeguarding Officer is also a member of both panels and there is likely to be informal conversation between the two Panel chairs.

Safeguarding Advisory Group (SAG) Northern Panel

Responsibilities

For the Synods:

- To draft, implement and review Synod Policies.
- To respond to all requests for information from the connexion.
- To report at least annually to the Synod Policy Committees.

For the Circuits the Panel covers:

- To respond to requests for help, advice and information.
- To assist in the implementation of Connexional and Synod policies
- To initiate programmes of awareness and good practice.
- To work with other agencies on child protection.

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Wales Synod & Synod Cymru

Membership (12 max)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chair of Panel- Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (Northern) (Convenor)- Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (Southern)- Synod Cymru Safeguarding Officer- One Synod Chair from the Wales Synod- A member of the Wales Training Network Staff <p>+ up to 6 members with relevant experience in child protection and/or work with vulnerable adults of whom at least 2 should be members of Synod Cymru.</p> <p>The Panel will be appointed annually by both Synods and listed in the Synod Directories.</p> <p>The Panel may also co-opt other people with particular professional skills for specific pieces of work or advice.</p>
Meetings	<p>The number of meetings will depend on the tasks being undertaken but it is envisaged that the group will routinely meet three times a year.</p>
Circuits Covered (17)	<p>Wrexham, Buckley & Deeside, Ceredigion, Welshpool & Bro Hafren, Rhyl & Prestatyn, Colwyn Bay & Llandudno, Bangor & Holyhead.</p> <p>Dyffryn Clwyd, Bathafarn, Maelor, Glannau, Powys, Llanrhaeadr, Dyffryn Conway, Mon ac Arfon, De Gwynedd, Glannau Meririon a Dyfi.</p>

Safeguarding Advisory Group (SAG) Southern Panel

Responsibilities	<p>For the Circuits the Panel covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To respond to requests for help, advice and information.- To assist in the implementation of Connexional and Synod policies- To initiate programmes of awareness and good practice.- To work with other agencies on child protection.
Membership (12 max)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chair of Panel- Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (Northern)- Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (Southern) (Convenor)- Synod Cymru Safeguarding Officer *- One Synod Chair from the Wales Synod- A member of the Wales Training Network Staff <p>+ up to 6 members with relevant experience in child protection and/or work with vulnerable adults, where possible one of whom should be a member in the Morgannwg Circuit. *</p> <p>The Panel will be appointed annually by both Synods and listed in the Synod Directories.</p>

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The Panel may also co-opt other people with particular professional skills for specific pieces of work or advice.

* This recognises the principle that local knowledge and contacts are extremely important when dealing with Safeguarding issues, therefore the split of Circuits is geographical, rather than linguistic, although it is likely that the majority of Synod Cymru's Safeguarding business will be dealt with by the Northern Panel.

Meetings	The number of meetings will depend on the tasks being undertaken but it is envisaged that the group will routinely meet three times a year.
Circuits Covered (20)	MGM, Bridgend, Pembrokeshire, Llanelli & Carmarthen, Swansea & Gower, Neath Port Talbot, Cardiff, Barry, Penarth, Newport, Monmouth, Chepstow & Caldicot, Blackwood, Pontypool, Cwmbran, Ebbw Vale & Tredegar, Caerphilly, Abertillery, Abergavenny. Morgannwg.

Officers

The Wales Synod will appoint two Safeguarding Officers:

- The Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (Northern) who convenes and works with Safeguarding Advisory Group Northern Panel.
- The Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (Southern) who convenes and works with Safeguarding Advisory Group Southern Panel.

And in conjunction with Synod Cymru:

- The Chair of the Safeguarding Advisory Group Northern Panel.
- The Chair of the Safeguarding Advisory Group Southern Panel.

Synod Cymru will appoint a Safeguarding Officer.

The job descriptions for these posts will be set by the Northern Panel as part of its policy function.

Where one named individual is needed for the Wales Synod, the Safeguarding Officer (Northern) will be regarded as the lead Officer.

Role of Synod Chairs

The importance of Safeguarding both from a legal and pastoral perspective cannot be underestimated, and one of the two Wales Synod Chairs be identified as having specific responsibility for working with the Safeguarding Officers on Safeguarding issues within the Synod.

This Chair will be an ex-officio member of both SAG panels and form the link between the SAG Panels and the Synod Leadership Team/Policy Committee.

[Presented to Synod Policy Committee 13 October 2007]