



1.1H GUIDANCE ON THE COMPOSITION OF PARISH PANEL OR EQUIVALENT

Incumbents and select vestries shall, following the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese (or equivalent), ensure that within each parish, there is a panel of at least three people (the Parish Panel).

The Panel shall include the Incumbent (or equivalent) or in exceptional circumstances a person nominated by the Incumbent together with at least two other members. The Panel should comprise of both male and female persons. Panel members may be working with children in the Parish but at least one member of the panel should not be working with children in the Parish.

A Panel member cannot be the spouse or immediate relative of the Incumbent or another panel member.

If in exceptional circumstances, due to lack of available parishioners, it is not practical to appoint a panel of three persons and subject to the prior approval of the Bishop of the Diocese, alternative arrangements may be made for the appointment of a panel. This may include, for example joining panels together, or suggesting alternative volunteers, but these would have to be agreed by the Bishop of the Diocese

The recruitment of the Parish Panel (or equivalent) should follow the procedure for nominated church personnel as outlined in **Guidance 1.1A**.

If there is a vacancy in the Parish, the Bishop must ensure that a person overseeing the Parish during the vacancy is appointed to the Parish Panel, until the vacancy is filled.

The people best suited to these tasks are those whose occupations, or voluntary experience, has provided them with the relevant experience in this area.

Parishes should indicate the duration of appointment for Panel members. A period of three years is suggested, which may be renewable, so that the role and responsibility is shared among parishioners.