The Diocesan Safeguarding Oversight Group (DSOG) has oversight of, and scrutinises, safeguarding strategy and arrangements in the Diocese of Leicester. It meets quarterly and brings together people from the diocese with representatives from external agencies, including children & adult services, the police, the probation service, and Quetzal, a local charity for survivors of childhood abuse. DSOG is chaired by Adrienne Plunkett, a social worker with a background in Children’s Services, as a practitioner and manager, and experience of conducting Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews with Safeguarding Partnerships across the country.

At its meeting on **26 June, 2024**, DSOG heard from Revd Barry Hill, the Diocese’s Strategy Development Enabler, and Matt Long, Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Communities Enabler, about how their work joins up, with Matt taking the lead on intergenerational ministry and Growing Faith. Barry emphasised how safeguarding will be at the heart of Minster Communities, inviting discussion around the safeguarding role and training, and the need for translation across a range of languages. DSOG is keeping a focus on the challenging role of Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, particularly in Minster Communities

Matt explained how the diocese has facilitated ‘listening exercises’ with increasingly diverse groups of children and young people from within our churches and schools, giving a voice and choice to young people across a range of subjects, including climate change, and how the Diocese has responded to this. Safeguarding, how children and young people can feel ‘happy, safe and supported’ in church settings, will be among the next topics for discussion by the groups.

DSOG had discussions around the following matters:

* **The Future of Church Safeguarding**: Jay Report Response Group’s report, with four potential models, will be presented to the General Synod in July 2024.
* **IICSA recommendations 1 & 8:** These relate to the changing role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors to Diocesan Safeguarding Officers, with authority to operate independently of the bishops, and the establishment of regional safeguarding leads to provide profession supervision. Representatives of the National Safeguarding Team will be attending DSOG in September to discuss these developments.
* **Diocesan Safeguarding Strategy and Business Plan 2022/2027:** The Strategy and Business Plan have been reviewed and updated, reflecting the National Safeguarding Standards. Priorities are identified for 2024/25, which inform the work of the sub-groups.
* **Safeguarding Intelligence Pack:** The pack has been developed by the Quality Improvement Sub-Group and populated by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST). The aim is to provide quantitative and qualitative data in order for DSOG to scrutinise safeguarding activity in the Diocese, e.g. nature and volume of referrals, compliance with training requirements. It will be used to identify trends and highlight areas for development.

DSOG also received updates regarding the focus group work to develop a survivor care strategy and from the Cathedral and the Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, as well as reports from QISG, the Executive, and the Training Subgroups.