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**Management Assistant to Diocesan Secretary - Governance and Information Management**

**Job Description**

# PURPOSE

To support the Diocesan Secretary and to ensure the smooth running and effective organisation of key governance and information processes in the Diocese.

**REPORTING TO**

The Diocesan Secretary

**Responsible for (Line Manager)**

Business Support Assistant

Pastoral Secretary

# KEY CONNECTIONS

The Diocesan Secretary, senior staff, bishops, archdeacons, committee chairs, diocesan registrar and members of the diocesan team.

# PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

* Under the direction of the Diocesan Secretary, to ensure that meetings are effective and properly recorded and meet the needs of the Diocesan Board of Finance and its sub-committees;
* In consultation with the Diocesan Secretary, to manage all aspects of synodical governance including elections e.g. Diocesan Synod and Bishop’s Council. To also manage correspondence concerning the business of the Diocesan Synod and its elections.
* Ensure all appropriate actions are being worked through from action point lists.
* Working with Data Analyst to actively manage annual data collection from parishes e.g. Stats for Mission, electoral roll, finance returns, energy footprint and Articles of Association.
* To assist with managing and maintaining the Diocesan Risk Register.
* To line manage the Business Support Assistant to the leadership team.
* To line manage and oversee the work of the Pastoral Secretary.

# DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Overseeing and supporting the Business Support Assistant with administration for the Diocesan Secretary and Leadership Team, which includes:**
   * Arranging meetings and general diary management
   * Assist in for keeping the CMS system accurate and up to date
   * Maintain efficient electronic filing system
   * Day to day administrative tasks, including circulating minutes and agendas
2. **Assisting with the planning and delivery of diocesan governance, including:**
   * Ensuring Terms of Reference are updated and reviewed
   * Ensuring membership is appropriately reviewed, maintained and where necessary, elections are carried out
   * Liaising with Chairs to set agenda, assisting with the preparation and circulation of agendas, papers and minutes.
   * Taking minutes at such meetings as required.
   * Booking meeting rooms and ensuring set up ready for the meeting.
   * Maintaining attendance registers and apologies lists.
   * Updating committee membership lists on the central database.
3. **Assisting with oversight and maintenance of the DBF policies (as well as a number of diocesan wide policies), including:**

* Updating and maintaining the master policy log
* Ensuring all policies are reviewed by the relevant committee and at the right time
* Manage version control on all policies
* Ensuring relevant policies are accessible to all (i.e. HR policies are added to the MyHRToolkit)

1. **Assisting the Diocesan Secretary with the planning and delivery of the leadership and management team meetings, including:** 
   * Recording actions from meetings
   * Assisting with the production of the agenda, collating items from members in relation to their areas of work
   * Updating and maintaining the action plan(s)

# 5. In consultation with the Diocesan Secretary, carry out electoral registration duties and assist in the conduct of elections;

• To plan and manage the process of elections for General Synod – a process that takes place every six years

* + To plan and manage the process of elections for Diocesan Synod on a triennial basis, including supporting the Diocesan Secretary in his role as the Diocesan Electoral Roll Officer (DERO) in respect of maintaining accurate elector records of deanery synod members
  + To plan and manage the process of elections for Bishop’s Council, its sub-committees and other committees, on a triennial basis and as and when necessary to fill casual vacancies.

**6. To support the maintenance of the Diocesan risk register. Working with the Diocesan Secretary to ensure that:**

* + Risks are identified and assessed
  + Mitigations for risks are identified and owned
  + Actions are taken and the impact on risks of these actions is understood
  + The risk register is communicated to the appropriate parts of the governance structure.

1. **To be the main liaison between the diocesan staff and the independent GDPR adviser/Data Protection Officer**
2. **Supervise the work of the Pastoral Secretary**

* To supervise the work of the Pastoral Secretary and ensure good communication with stakeholders.
* To supervise the work of the Pastoral Secretary, in particular oversight of meetings of the sub-committees including arranging venues, preparing agendas and recording minutes, enabling or preparing papers, ensuring the Chairs are briefed and that the decisions of the Committee are implemented. The three committees meet four times a year With the Archdeacons, to monitor local situations in collaboration with Deanery Pastoral to initiate any resulting Pastoral Schemes and to carry out the sequences of statutory and non-statutory consultation (per point below).

**DECISIONS:**

The jobholder will:

* + - need to prioritise work throughout the day, ready to change to a different task in response to new needs/requests arising.
    - Set up and maintain effective systems of data management
    - Act with authority and confidentiality to prevent or minimise risks
    - Develop an understanding of Diocesan Governance and advise others on how this should function.
    - Be able to communicate confidently and clearly with senior staff and Clergy and ensure they understand and comply with governance requirements

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

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| --- | --- |
| **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Good general level of education  Proven administration skills | Administration or business qualification |
| **Skills / Abilities / Aptitudes** | |
| Operating in a similar environment of supporting formal committees or Boards, and ensuring compliance with regulations. This may have been gained in a public, private, or voluntary sector environment.  Effective verbal and written communication skills, including good telephone and email manner  A proactive approach, taking responsibility for actions and consequences  An ability to meet deadlines and prioritising tasks and acting with grace under pressure.  IT skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, Power Point; Outlook and Access, and online tools, such as Survey Monkey.  Excellent administrative skills with the ability to work accurately and with attention to detail  Handling sensitive and confidential information  Secures, builds and maintains good working relationships internally and externally  Line Manager experience  Being a team player  A flexible approach to working, including some evenings and weekends, and an ability and willingness to travel to various locations if required |  |
| **Work-related Personal Qualities** | |
| An understanding of Church or Diocesan Governance  Ability to think creatively and to anticipate and solve problems  Previous experience of working in a charitable environment and with volunteers  Experience of using document management systems  Understanding of and empathy with the work of the Church of England  A willingness to learn new skills and take part in on-going professional development |  |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**About Us**

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich has 445 parishes in 112 benefices and serves approximately 660,000 people living in a geographical area of more than 1,400 square miles.

The Diocesan Board of Finance serves and supports our parishes and schools offering the people of Suffolk the opportunity to encounter God and grow in Christian faith. We strive to do this in providing service and support in line with our values of Respect, Transparency, Quality and Well-being.

**Terms and conditions – general information**

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| Salary | The salary range for this post is £37,000 to £39,000 per annum full time or pro rata if less than 35 hours worked per week and dependent upon experience. |
| Pension provision | Membership of the Church of England Pensions Board Pension Builder 2014 Scheme following completion of probation period. |
| Hours of work | Minimum 30 hours per week up to 35 hours per week (full time). We operate a hybrid working policy with office working days to be agreed with some flexibility required and offered. TOIL (time off in lieu) is applicable for evening and weekend working to be agreed with line manager. |
| Holidays | 25 days pro-rata paid leave in addition to the usual public holidays plus Discretionary days (at Easter and Christmas) |
| Probation Period | Six months during which time progress is regularly reviewed and the period may be extended |
| Notice period | During probation 2 weeks and thereafter 3 month |
| Place of work | Diocesan Office, St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ  However, these offices are currently up for sale, and we are planning a potential move away from this location to new offices within a reasonable distance (either within Ipswich or on the outskirts of Ipswich) which will become the main place of work. |

NOTES: The main duties and responsibilities of this new post are outlined in the job description. The list is not meant to be exhaustive and is likely to evolve. It is the practice of the DBF via the line manager to review and amend job descriptions annually, in consultation with the post-holder.

**For an informed conversation please contact:** Gary Peverley 07879 634525

**Application packs available from:** Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Website [http://www.cofesuffolk.org//vacancies](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/vacancies)

**Please note:** Applications will only be accepted on our DBF application forms. Please do not apply online or send CVs

**Applications marked ‘Confidential Application’ to be sent to:** [HR@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:HR@cofesuffolk.org) or by post to Diocesan Office, St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ.

**Closing Date for Applications:** 23rd October 2024

**Interview Date:** 7th November 2024