

**Chester Diocesan Disability Adviser**

**Role Description**

The Diocese of Chester is committed to working towards the inclusion of disabled and neurodivergent people in every part of the life of the church. Their exclusion is both an injustice and a loss, as through it the church and its ministry are greatly diminished. The Diocesan Disability Adviser will help disabled and neurodivergent people to play a full part in church life and ministry, working with the Diocesan Disability Forum, particularly its Co-chairs, to provide practical advice and resources; to act as a listening ear and advocate; to help shape parish and diocesan policy and practices.

**Disability Adviser role**

* To be a point of contact for those with questions relating to disability in the life of the Diocese, researching and pointing people to relevant resources and expertise.
* To provide and enable pastoral support, as appropriate, in situations where disability and neurodivergence is a factor.
* To advocate for the concerns of people with disabilities and neurodivergence across a range of issues, enabling parishes and diocesan bodies to act in an informed and timely way.
* To work in partnership with the Co-chairs and members of the Disability Forum to achieve the Forum’s aims.
* To encourage an effective working relationship between the Forum and staff at Church House and those working in parishes
* With the Co-chairs to act as spokespersons and figureheads for the Forum
* To promote a strong safeguarding culture, being trained in Safeguarding up to Leadership level

***What we are looking for***

 **Essential**

* Insight into the needs and concerns of disabled and neurodivergent people in lay and ordained roles in the diocese
* Ability to listen and engage effectively, being comfortable with challenge and debate
* Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and others
* Ability and willingness to advocate for disabled and neurodivergent people, championing for their needs in a variety of diocesan settings.
* A strong personal commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.
* A person of faith who can work pastorally and theologically.

In addition to the above, the Adviser will have the responsibilities and qualities of all Forum members, as shown in the Volunteer Agreement and the terms of reference of the Disability Forum

***Terms of appointment***

**Terms of office**

* The Disability Adviser is appointed for a 3 year term of office, renewal for further terms
* This is a voluntary position, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.
* There is an Occupational Requirement for the postholder to be a practising Christian, in accordance with the Equality Act, 2010.

**Time commitment**

* Attending 4 - 6 Forum meetings annually. Currently meetings are held both online and on site.
* Bi-monthly scheduled meeting with the Co-chairs of Disability Forum with flexibility to respond swiftly to the occasional ad hoc issue.
* Responding to enquiries, making visits, attending other meetings as necessary.

**Relating to**

The role will be supported and supervised by the Director of Outreach and will relate to officers working across Church House, for example Buildings for Mission, DAC, Property, Ministry, Counselling and HR. The Adviser will work in collaboration with people involved in other diocesan forums.