**Diocese of Portsmouth Healing Prayer Ministry Guidelines**

**APPENDIX 2. Example of Role Description for Members of a Healing Prayer Ministry Team.**

Nature of Ministry

This is a voluntary role providing prayer ministry usually to members of a congregation, within or following Sunday or weekday Services. There may be other occasions when this ministry may be exercised for example during specific healing services or special services of celebration and/or commemoration. Individuals might be expected to exercise prayer ministry as part of their work within a Pastoral Team.

Prayer ministry is distinct from Counselling and offers individuals the opportunity to be prayed for by trusted and authorised team members in which those prayed for can be confident of being treated with sensitivity, respect and confidentiality. Any need, either for themselves or others, may be brought for prayer and touch with laying on of hands is usual with permission.

Person Specification

Individuals involved in this ministry will have received appropriate training, such as that offered through the Diocese. Those suitable for this ministry should be motivated by compassion and a desire to serve and bless others as well as having an expectation of seeing healing in its widest sense within the context of salvation and the outworking of the Kingdom of God in the world.

Our expectations of those participating in this ministry will include:

* A genuine and mature Christian Faith (which includes being Baptised and Confirmed or equivalent standing within a Christian denomination), and a respect for the authority of Scripture.
* An ability to listen and communicate.
* Self-awareness and open to correction.
* Willing to be accountable to the team leadership and to be subject to the authority of the Incumbent of the church.
* Being willing to undergo refresher training, ideally at least every 3 years.
* To be committed to their participation in rotas and availability as agreed, and to communicate responsibly when they are unable to fulfil this commitment.
* It is also desirable that team members should be committed to the fellowship of the church not only on Sundays but also for example in fellowship groups. They should be developing their personal spiritual growth and devotional life, seeking to become more like Jesus and open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Safeguarding Issues

Prayer ministry normally takes place within or at the end of services and is therefore mostly conducted in view of others. It is good practice however that ministry will be carried out by male/female pairs or individuals ministering to same-sex only, this is especially important when prayer ministry is carried out in contexts other than services in church, for example in a person’s home.

Particular care needs to be exercised to ensure confidentiality and to avoid inappropriate dependency or counselling of individuals. The appropriate use of touch should never be presumed and always used with verbal permission.

**It is necessary for team members to have received Current Safeguarding Training for both Children and Vulnerable Adults and to have signed a Confidential Declaration Form as well as completing an enhanced DBS check. This training will need to be updated in line with Diocesan Training Guidelines.**

The Church’s Commitment to Members of the Team

* Access or advice on appropriate training as required.
* Assistance with understanding the requirements of Safeguarding Training and DBS checks.
* Support and supervision as necessary through the team leader and/or the ordained leadership of the church.

*[Service Team Leaders:*

*It is often helpful to have a member of the team designated as a Team Leader for times when prayer ministry is offered. They would have responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient members of the team present, that there is prayer beforehand and that they liaise with the service leader so they are aware of the availability of prayer ministry.]*

Role of Prayer Ministry Team Leader

* To be accountable to the Incumbent and PCC for the oversight of the Prayer Ministry Team.
* To facilitate appropriate cover for services, and that where team leaders for services are appointed they are briefed on their role.
* To arrange regular meetings for the team, with particular emphasis on prayer and support for team members.
* To maintain awareness of the appropriate practice and functioning of the team.
* To appraise individual members as necessary.
* To ensure that the ‘Safer Recruiting’ process is complied with for new members, including the requirements for DBS checks, Safeguarding Training, and references.
* To ensure that new members of the team have received adequate training and initial supervision.
* To be committed to personal Christian spiritual growth and discipleship and to ensure adequate personal supervision exists.

 David Pearson, Diocese of Portsmouth Healing Adviser. February 2019.