



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

Recognised Local leader: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can take on this role? Anyone who is baptised and confirmed, a regular communicant member of the Church of England, in good standing with the local church and community and who is able to fulfil the associated tasks.
2. Why is the diocese pushing a new initiative? This is a resource to help you in your local mission and ministry, if it's helpful. It is not mandatory and will not be appropriate in all parish contexts.
3. Where can I read more about the principles behind this role and how it is being used in other places? Please read Grove Booklet L34: Leading one church at a time by Bob Jackson (<https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/l-34-leading-one-church-at-a-time-from-multi-church-ministers-to-focal-ministers> he refers to it as Focal Ministry). We will also be sharing stories of how it is working on the ground in the diocese.
4. How will the information about this role be disseminated across the diocese? They will be promoted at vocations events across the diocese giving people a chance to explore what it might mean where they are. There is also information on the diocesan website under Your Faith / Exploring your Christian calling.
5. How can we explain to the local community what this role is about? We suggest putting a photo and introduction of a person in this role on your noticeboards and in your local advertising, directing people to the person as the first point of contact for this church/congregation.
6. Will the application paperwork be the same if someone already has a recognised ministry role in the diocese? If someone already has a licensed or commissioned role in the diocese then they will simply need to complete a role description with their incumbent. If they do not, they will need to complete a full application form for this role to ensure that they are safe and accountable.
7. What if the person believes they have a vocation to this role, but the incumbent does not? In order to go forward with this role the person will need the formal backing of the PCC and the incumbent as they will be working with them, and under their authority.
8. How will the person be authorised? They will be commissioned in their local church by the incumbent using a form of words provided by Mission and Ministry.

9. How long will this role last? 5 years with annual reviews. It is not expected that the person will continue after this time. Someone else will then take on the role.
10. Who will help with the extra administration associated with this ministry? We want to support local churches as you seek to equip and release people into their vocation and ministry. Structures should already be in place to support someone who is already in a licensed or commissioned role.
11. What happens if it goes wrong? There is a process for handling disaffection should it arise. In the first instance the incumbent should contact Revd. Phil Dykes in the Mission and Ministry department.
12. Will having someone in this role affect my parish share? No, it does not impact parish share.
13. Is there a lower age limit? The person needs to be considered an adult so the lower age is 17.

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