

# **The Sector Couple and Responsibility in Teams**

**December 2020**

## Role of Sector Couple

The role of Sector Couple is a spiritual and pastoral role as well as an administrative and organisational role. You are a facilitator but do not necessarily have to undertake all the practical and organisational tasks yourselves. Delegate!!

Some of the application of this guidance will apply differently, depending on the size of the sector and the proximity to the next sectors. Your Regional Couple will explain and so this should be regarded as general guidance.

It is entirely possible for responsibility for the sector to be taken by two couples so that the good ideas are multiplied, and the tasks shared.

## Communication

This is probably the most important part of being a sector couple.

- ◆ Maintain regular contact with each Team in your sector (eg phone RC)
- ◆ Contact with Regional couple
- ◆ Hold an RC meeting in September for all RCs from each Team. This means that the new RCs elected in June will be there, hopefully.
- ◆ Remind each Team of the usual annual cycle ie May: annual contributions, June: electing new RC's, July: annual review, Summer: Picnic / BBQ / Walk, Sept / Oct: Gatherings. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec: Charter / Teams Birthday Celebration.
- ◆ Trouble shooting (if necessary!)
- ◆ It is usually beneficial to start all meetings with a short prayer or reflection and perhaps sharing a high or concern around the group.

## Prayer Cascade

This is a method of Teams people all over the UK praying for Teams people in need. Anyone in Teams can request prayers to be cascaded.

This is on [www.teamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade](http://www.teamsGB.org.uk/prayercascade)

Though note that people with BT addresses, due to BT security will have to send their prayer request directly to [TeamsPrayers@GoogleGroups.com](mailto:TeamsPrayers@GoogleGroups.com)

## Expenses

Expenses for the sector should be claimed. Please claim all costs you incur on Teams business, such as stationery, postage, petrol, printer ink if significant. For other expenses it is probably best to check with the regional couple first.

Send an account with scanned receipts including details of dates and expenditure to the regional treasurers.

## Database

The region keeps the database for all Teams couples and chaplains for the Region. Please inform the Regional Couple if anyone in your sector changes their address, Tel no or E-mail.

## **In Memoriam**

We maintain a Book of Remembrance – so please pass on the details of members when they die. It is nice to have a good photograph and a short obituary. Someone can work with the bereaved spouse or family on this. It is possible to include an obituary in the quarterly newsletter.

## **Events**

It is traditional in Teams to hold a sector birthday Mass and celebration on or around December 8<sup>th</sup> and a summer event (such as a picnic or BBQ). Some sectors organise sector retreats, mixed teams evenings or days of reflection. You do not need to physically organise these yourself but you need to facilitate them happening well in advance. Teams events ideally need to be self-funding. If costs are likely to be incurred, then we may be able to cover these, but please check with the regional couple in advance of the event.

As soon as event dates are confirmed, please inform the Regional Couple asap so that they can go in the newsletter.

A regional gathering (or similar) is held annually (usually in Autumn) and ideally both the responsible couple and the sector couple should attend this.

## **Sector support team / sector chaplain**

It is much easier being sector couple if you have a small Team to support you. This can be your own Team, a Team made up of existing RCs or a team made up of people you choose to bring together just as a sector support Team. There should be a sector chaplain if possible to support you spiritually. This Team should meet to discuss ideas for events and expansion etc.

## **Expansion and piloting**

Where possible, each sector should have someone responsible for expansion. Again, they do not necessarily have to do the work themselves but should be responsible for planning an expansion strategy. If new Teams are formed, once piloting is finished it is important to maintain frequent contact to support these Teams until they become established.

## **Contacts with the Church locally**

It is a good idea where possible to keep in contact with the local bishop, Marriage and Family Life Coordinator for the diocese. You can let them know about Teams and invite them to Sector events.

## **What you can expect from your regional couple?**

The Regional Couple will:

- Support you in the work you do in your sector. We are always at the end of the phone or email and will try to help in any way that we can.
- Keep in regular contact with you by email and phone, passing on messages etc.
- Arrange meetings for sector couples once a year to provide support and ideas.
- Be your link to the superregional and GB Team level.
- Visit your sector at least once during their time as regional couples
- Help to organise any regional gatherings
- Write to each bishop sending them copies of the newsletters and any events.

## **C) LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND OF ANIMATION**

### **a) THE SECTOR**

The Sector is a community of teams that wish to journey together and help each other. It usually consists of 5 to 20 teams located within a reasonable distance of each other, small enough for communication to exist between them, but with sufficient teams to ensure good animation.

The responsibility of the sector is entrusted to a couple nominated by the Movement. As "Sector Couple" they work with the help of a Sector Team. This team is composed of a number of couples and a priest who is the Spiritual Counsellor of the Sector. The Sector Couple is called to serve by the Regional Couple for a period of three years.

The functions of the Sector Team are: spiritual animation, liaison, formation, and the organisation of events and expansion of the Movement.

### **b) THE REGION**

The Region is composed of several neighbouring Sectors and provides mutual help between them. It is the centre of communication and communion between Sector Couples, members of the Sector Teams and other couples who provide services to the movement. A couple is appointed Regional Couple for four years, and is helped by a Regional Team and a Regional Spiritual Counsellor. Together they are responsible for the animation, liaison, formation, expansion, reflection, discernment and the fostering of unity of the teams in the Region.

The Regional Couple is called to serve by the Super-Regional Couple or by the International Leading Team (ERI) in consultation with the Sector Couples of that Region.

### **c) THE SUPER-REGION**

The Super-Region is composed either of the Regions of a country or of the Regions of neighbouring countries. Experience shows that at least 200 teams constitute a good base for the viability of a Super-Region.

The responsibility for the Super-Region is entrusted to a "Super-Regional Couple". They call on other couples and a priest to help them in a service of reflection, discernment and animation of the Regions entrusted to them.

Together they constitute the "Super-Regional Team" and they work in a spirit of collegiality, co-responsibility and communion. The Super-Regional Couple is appointed for five years.

They fulfil their role in faithfulness to the founding charisms, vocation and mission of the Movement. They are responsible for transmitting to the teams the main orientations of the Movement and to promote its formative ways and methods. They are responsible for unity, communion, and the formation of leaders and team members in the Super-Region.

The Super-Regional Couple is a member of the International College of the Movement. They are called to serve by the International Leading Team (ERI) in consultation with the Regional Couples of the Super-Region.

In the case of some Super-Regions with very large numbers of teams, there can be an intermediate structure, called a 'Province', composed of several Regions. The couple responsible for a Province serves for five years.