

Association of Salesian Cooperators

(Great Britain Province)

<http://www.salesiancooperators.org.uk>

E-Mail : cooperatorsprovincial20132016@gmail.com



Provincial Plan

2014 – 2016

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Vocation

We should take every opportunity to reflect on the focus of our mission at national, local and individual level, making sure that we remain true to the vision of Don Bosco, whilst adapting to the current needs of the young, poor and marginalised in today's society.

With the Apostolic Promise, the Salesian Cooperator responds to a Vocation which lasts his or her entire life. He or she expresses it in daily life through witness, the apostolic, and various forms of service. He or she places self at the service of mission of the Church with availability, living the Salesian charism and authenticity. He or she collaborates with commitment in initiatives that are promoted by other ecclesial, religious, and civic organisations. Each one's fidelity is supported by the affection and solidarity of the other members of the Association of the Salesian Family.

PAL (Project of Apostolic Life) STATUTES Article 30 Fidelity to Commitments Assumed

Section 1 (page 49)

Task	Lead person	Action Planned	Action taken
Keep central to all that we do and promote widely, the faith that we have of knowing God as the Father, Jesus Christ as our Saviour and living in the Spirit.	ALL Council members to promote	(Ongoing)	
Encourage all Cooperators to read, and explore the details of the new Project of Apostolic Life. Work with local centres to formulate a suggested programme of study as part of ongoing formation.	John Hoskins	1. Make available copies of the (new) PAL to all Centres and Detached.	1. (new) PAL received and distributed February 2015 (Cost £3.50)
Encourage (persuade) people to talk about their vocation, with other Cooperators, and more generally.	ALL Council members to promote	1. Sharing through Cooperators' Newsletter, (website) and 'Don Bosco Today'	
Recognise and celebrate the life-long commitment of all Cooperators adapting to their changing circumstances.	ALL Council members to promote	1. Currently updating Centre details (pending change in circumstances).	1. Website launched at Study Day January 2012 (in Chertsey). 2. The administration of the website now in the hands of Bernard O'Neill (Honorary Secretary) and Keith Dransfield (January 2013).

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Promote and inform Cooperators of the Annual Strenna provided by the Rector Major.	John Hoskins	1. Announce the Strenna to all Centres and the Detached in July encouraging preparation and action relating to the Strenna.	
Share feedback from the General Chapters of the SDB and FMA in guiding us in the direction of our vocation as members of the Salesian Family.	1. Fr. Francis and Bernard 2. Sr. Mary and John Hoskins	1. At Council meetings, via articles in the Cooperators Newsletters and when visiting centres (as and when appropriate)	1. Reports from Family day in Rome (January 2014) 2. 2 nd Regional Congress in Munich (in November 2014)

Growth

We are convinced of the benefits that result from membership of the Salesian Family and from living and working with the heart of Don Bosco. We therefore have a strong desire to see the Salesian Cooperators grow and spread.

The Association is open to the possibility of creating Centres of Salesian Cooperators wherever the Salesian mission requests it.

Those members who are involved in an apostolic and educational Salesian reality can open the way for the creation of a Salesian Cooperators Centre which remains linked to that work. Such Centres will commit themselves to propose a way for the laity involved in that Salesian work to draw near to the Association.

PAL (Project of Apostolic Life) REGULATIONS Article 18 Local Centres and Their Coordination at the Provincial Level Sections 6 and 7 (page 84)

Task	Lead person	Action planned	Action taken
Encourage centres and individuals to seek out potential new Cooperators through working with parishes and other parts of the Salesian Family. From Volunteers to Cooperators.	1. ALL Council members 2. Bernard O'Neill	1. Visits and communications with centres to discuss ways of growth (Ongoing) 2. Communications with Past Pupils (Ongoing)	
Encourage local centres to reflect on ways of adapting to the needs of existing and potential Cooperators by being more flexible in meeting arrangements.	1 & 2 ALL Council members to Promote 3. John Hoskins	1. To report at Council meetings examples of good practice then share with other centres (Ongoing) 2. To explore possible using modern technology to communicate with (new) and present Members. 3. New members; joining Going Deeper and Detached members	

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		(not linked to centre) (Ongoing)	
Explore the reasons why Cooperators become distant from local centres and the Association in general.			
Share methods of good practice for recruiting attracting Enquirers.	1. Mabel Kaluba 2. ALL Council Members'	1. Design a list of guidelines to help centres welcome new members using experience of Chertsey. 2. Continue to receive and share good practice across the province.	1. Circulate Minutes of meetings with other centres (and on the website)
Establish new centres and reform dormant centres in Salesian areas.	1. John Hoskins	1. Write to Fr. Kieran Anderson (Battersea)	1. Letter to Fr. Kieran Anderson 07.12.2014
Work with local centres to seek ways to maintain or improve the age profile of the Cooperators within the centre.			
Encourage the promotion of the Association with local communities (including SDB and FMA)			
Establish links with other provinces to provide a welcome for Cooperators from other parts of the world, especially European migrants.	1. John Hoskins 2. John Hoskins 3. Fr. Francis and Sr. Mary	1. Attend Regional Congress meeting (every 3 years) 2. Invite representatives from other provinces to annual retreat. 3. Attending World Congress (in Rome) and raising issue regarding migrants.	1. Reports from Family day in Rome (January 2014) 2. 2 nd Regional Congress in Munich (in November 2014)

Formation

We are aware of the need to consider the opportunities for formation of Salesian Cooperators across the province, meeting the needs of spiritual and practical development of all Cooperators, and those aspiring to join the association.

Conscious of the importance of on-going formation, the Salesian Cooperators:

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- ✓ develop their own human gifts, so they might fulfil even better their family, professional, and civic responsibilities;
- ✓ mature in their faith and in charity, growing in union with God, to render their life more Gospel-like and more Salesian;
- ✓ *dedicate time to reflection and study, to deepen Sacred Scriptures, the Doctrines of the Church, their knowledge of Don Bosco, and Salesian documents.*

PAL (Project of Apostolic Life) **REGULATIONS** Article 16 **On-going Formation Initiatives**

Section 1 (pages 80 and 81)

Task	Lead person	Action planned	Action taken
Continue to provide opportunities, including the annual retreat, for Cooperators to gather together for the purposes of formation.	ALL Council members promote		
Support any relevant initiatives across the Salesian Family.			
Promote up-to-date understanding of regulations and laws for all, particularly for those working with young or vulnerable groups, and assist local centres in these details.	ALL Council members promote	1. Always promote within our centres Parish and Diocesan polices regarding safeguarding.	
Explore possibilities for virtual networking, particularly for the benefit of those Cooperators not attached to a local centre.			.
Ensure that formation meets the needs of all Cooperators, including younger members of the Salesian Family and those who may not be able to attend monthly meetings regularly.			.

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Communication

We recognise the crucial aspect that communication plays in all the work of the Provincial Council and Cooperators in general. We need to develop the processes of communication with Cooperators at World, Provincial and Local Level. We should use communication to raise the profile of the Association amongst the Salesian Family and the wider community.

The Association commits itself to utilize the many social communications and the new technologies to collaborate in cultural dialogue, to foster the development of their critical capacity, and to elaborate and spread formative publications accessible in various ways to all.

PAL (Project of Apostolic Life) REGULATIONS Article 16 On-going Formation Initiatives

Section 4 (pages 81 and 82)

Task	Lead person	Action planned	Action taken
Distribute minutes of Provincial Council meetings to all Cooperators, either through Centres or directly to the Detached.	1. Bernard O'Neill and John Hoskins 2 Bernard O'Neill and John Hoskins	1. To send Council Minutes out to all 14 Centres for the attention of Delegates and Coordinators also, SDB and FMA Provincials (and Detached). 2. Write to Detached Members asking to return slip if still interested in receiving Minutes (newsletter)	Minutes sent out to Detached Members after every Council meeting. Use of e-mail (85%) and post (15%) Also, available on the Cooperators' website.
Provide support for the Salesian Newsletter produced Bernard O'Neill (Provincial Secretary) by: Providing articles from the Provincial Council. Encouraging centres to contribute regularly. Assisting in the distribution of Newsletter.	1. John Hoskins 2. Fr. Francis And Sr. Mary 3. ALL Council members	1. Provide reports on Provincial Council meetings. 2. Provide reports from FMA and SDB delegates (alternate) 3. Other articles provided by members of the council. 4. Copies to be sent to Detached Cooperators.	
Support individual Cooperators in moments of need.	1 & 2. ALL Council members	1. Visits, telephone calls or e-mail as the need arises. (Ongoing)	.
Website now established	1. Bernard O'Neill and Keith Dransfield	1. Website launched back in January (2012) 2. Regular updating and development (Ongoing)	

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<p>Develop stronger links between Provincial Council and local centres, by encouraging dialogue, and visits to centres by the representatives of the Council.</p>	<p>1. Sr. Mary 2. Fr. Francis 3. ALL Elected Council Members'</p>	<p>1. Sister Mary to visit SOUTHERN centres (Ongoing) 2. Fr. Francis to visit NORTHERN centres (Ongoing) 3. All to report back at meetings using standard Proforma.</p>	<p>1. Allocation of Centres at November 2013 meeting 2. John (Hoskins) updates the Salesian Directory (Annually)</p>
<p>Keep other parts of Salesian family informed of the work of the Provincial Council and of the Cooperators in general.</p>		<p>See First Item (above) Communication.</p>	<p>July 2013 updated document called Functions and Purposes. Also, (now) available on our website.</p>
<p>Keep ourselves well-informed of the work of the other parts of the Salesian Family, by encouraging visits both at local and Provincial level.</p>	<p>1. John Hoskins</p>	<p>1. Invite Provincials to any council meeting. 2. Invite Going Deeper Team to Council meeting.</p>	<p>1. Vides spoke at the Council meeting in November 2013</p>

Finance

We need to ensure the financial independence of the Association and seek ways of raising funds to enable the Association to finance development projects and to support the work of Salesian missions in the province and at an international level.

The sense of belonging and of co-responsibility also involves the economic aspect of the Association. For its functioning for the actualization of the mission at the Local, Provincial, and World levels, the Salesian Cooperators support the Association with free and generous contributions, as Don Bosco wished:

"The Cooperators have no monetary obligation whatsoever, but they will make monthly, or annually, that oblation which the charity of their hearts will tell them."

PAL (Project of Apostolic Life) REGULATIONS Article 8 Economic Solidarity

Section 1 (Page 71)

Task	Lead person	Action planned	Action taken
<p>Offer training to Treasurers at local level, and encourage good record-keeping.</p>	<p>1 & 2. Bob Kiszczuk</p>	<p>1. Explore guidelines for Centre (and Treasurers). 2. Bob to write to all the individual centres. (Ongoing)</p>	

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Maintain a good financial balance by ensuring contributions from local centres and other funding is received and managed effectively.	ALL Council members		
Manage the Provincial accounts with consideration for economy and savings.	Bob Kiszczuk	Continue to produce an Annual Statement to be send to Centres (yearly)	1. 2013 – 2014 Accounts approved and made available November 2014

Collaboration

We recognise the need to work effectively with all parts of the Salesian Family, and with other organisations sharing the vision of our vocation.

Salesian Cooperators knows they are "*in intimate solidarity*" with the society in which they live and for which they are called to be light, salt, and leaven. They believe in the interior resources of the person. They share the values of their own culture and they commit themselves to work so that if may be guided by Christian humanism. They promote new realities with a critical Christian sense. They integrate into their life "*all that which is good,*" adopting a listening stance, especially as regards the young, in discerning the signs of the times.

PAL (Project of Apostolic Life) STATUTES Article 1 Salesian Presence in the World

Section 1 (Page 37)

Task	Lead person	Action planned	Action taken
Contribute to the Salesian Family Calendar.	John Hoskins	Enter dates of agreed events organised by the council (Ongoing)	
Representation on Vocation Team.	ALL Council members	<i>(Vocations team currently not meeting)</i>	
Maintain regular dialogue with SDB and FMA through Delegates at Provincial and local level.	Sr. Mary	Sr. Mary meeting / communicating with FMA delegates (Ongoing)	
Liase with other parts of Salesian Family. (Past Pupils / VIDES / BOVA Volunteers)	Bernard O'Neill	Links with Past Pupils. (Ongoing)	