A summary of the meeting of the Diocese of Leeds

**Strategic Safeguarding Committee (SSC) held 16th March 2021 2pm to 4pm.**

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| A demonstration was given by the Communications Director at the Diocese of Coventry and designer of the Safeguarding Dashboard audit system. The Committee were shown how the Dashboard works for the parishes. The three levels of compliance that the parishes can work towards were shown along with the links to Church of England guidance in each section which assists the user. The statistic tool was also demonstrated that can be used to establish how the parishes are progressing and who may need support. The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers stated that there was overwhelming positive feedback for the Dashboard from the parish safeguarding officers who felt the tool gave them guidance and reassured them that they were covering all aspects of their role.   * A report was requested at the next meeting to identify any themes or issues in different areas. |
| The Committee was updated on the work of the Past Case Review 2 (PCR2) Reference Group which had met just before the SSC. Work is progressing with robust oversight from the Group, which has some of the same members as the SSC and the same Independent Chair, |
| A report from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors (DSAs) had been circulated prior to the meeting  The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers updated the committee with statistics around current casework. The Serious Incident Report (SIR) 6 month report had been submitted. Seven cases were submitted for review and no queries or further work were requested from the team upon their submission to the Charity Commission. This was a positive result reflecting that the submissions were sufficiently detailed and thorough.  The Safeguarding Dashboard continued to receive positive feedback from Parishes and the team continued to support and promote the take up and use of this system. The Dashboard is being actively promoted within Leadership Training Sessions which is helping with promotion and take-up.  Leadership Training was discussed and it was raised that some Dioceses were looking to overbook their anticipated attendees from 12 to 14-16 to account for cancellations. It was agreed the team would look at taking this into consideration. Feedback from the training is very positive and the meeting heard some of the comments. |
| The Safeguarding Annual Report had been previously circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed by all present that this could now be signed off. This Safeguarding Annual Report forms part of the Diocesan Annual Report.  It was discussed as to whether this report went onto the website, which it currently does not. It was agreed that there was nothing legally stopping any publication, however, it would be inappropriate to put this onto the website prior to any sign off at Synod, but this should be put onto the website after Synod in October. |
| The Wakefield Cathedral Dean attended the meeting and updated that the three Cathedrals are signing off the new Service Level Agreement this week which is one of the actions from the SCIE report. He expressed his thanks for those who assisted with this. The SCIE audits for Ripon and Bradford were due to take place in July after delays due to the pandemic.  Safeguarding Sunday was discussed and that this would take place on the 10/10/21. It was confirmed that thirtyoneeight have information on their website and ideas for Safeguarding Sunday. It was agreed that this would be bought to the next meeting. |
| An update was given to the Committee by the NST Safeguarding Lead/Bishop around the published Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report, published on the 6/10/20. The 8 recommendations were discussed, 6 which were specifically for the Church of England, which included the structure of safeguarding, the revision/review of the Clergy Discipline Measure, information sharing between Church of England and Church in Wales and statutory partners, support for victims and survivors and auditing. The Archbishop’s Council have a project management team to ensure delivery of projects.  The development and implementation of the new case management system was discussed. The Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Leeds is on the Project Board of the CMS. The new CMS would look to incorporate all casework including daily enquiries, DBS queries and safeguarding agreements. All live cases would look to be added and new cases going forward. |