A summary of the meeting of the Diocese of Leeds

**Strategic Safeguarding Committee (SSC) held 10th March 2022**

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| **Matters Arising**  **Lessons Learned Case – An Action Plan from a lessons learned case had been circulated prior to the meeting.**  It was confirmed that progress had been made in identified areas:-   * A new support service was now being offered to survivors. Specialist counselling and support would be offered to adults who have experienced sexual trauma. This had already been taken up and feedback would be obtained from survivors who have engaged with this service provider. * Training for clergy and support teams on understanding sex offenders and their methods of grooming potential victims had been offered training arranged by the National Safeguarding Team on e-news and was made available to parishes. * Key Holder Management was now addressed on all Safeguarding Agreements and review meetings along with Archdeacon visitations. This issue has also been addressed in Safeguarding Newsletters.   **Action** - carried forward for 2023 agenda.  **Update from NST on Domestic Violence Training for PCC members (response circulated before the meeting)**  The meeting considered the response from National Safeguarding Team (NST) to a letter sent from the SSC. The team were encouraged to keep feeding back to the NST with issues/concerns that arose as the dialogue will be useful. |
| The Director of Communications updated that new guidance on online protocols had been established by the NST. Communication protocols had been reviewed regarding cases of online abuse with the National Team Communications Safeguarding Lead. The guidance relates to communicating safely in a hybrid environment with Covid along with considering social media and websites.  ACTION – It was agreed to have Communications on future agendas as social media is such an important issue in safeguarding.  **Ripon Cathedral SCIE Audit update**  The Dean of Ripon updated that their audit report and action plan would be presented at the next Chapter Meeting. The Dean felt that the process was challenging but positive, and the auditors were helpful, robust and engaging. It was felt that the report affirmed positive culture and relationship in safeguarding. The dean queried if it was time to review the SLA and felt it would be beneficial to move away from one Dean representing the Strategic meeting. Details of the report were then outlined to the committee  The committee felt that many of the action points could be worked across all three Cathedrals.  It was noted that DSA attendance at Ripon Cathedral Safeguarding Meetings could be improved and this was accepted and agreed upon.  The incoming Chair of the Strategic Safeguarding Committee felt that there were areas for mutual work between the three Cathedrals around recruitment, training and casework.  It was felt that the SCIE report process was fair and insightful.  The three Deans were asked to discuss attendance at the SSC at the next Bishops' Staff Meeting and to bring this back to the SSG meeting with a decision.  **Bradford Cathedral SCIE Audit update (Reports and Action Plan circulated prior to the meeting)**  The Bradford Cathedral Operational Director outlined the preparation for the audit, he felt that the three-day audit with interviews and file reviews went well. They felt the report was fair.  Their action plan is a dynamic document. It was felt the Cathedral could adopt a more joined-up view with other Cathedrals. The Chair advised this point had been raised by the SSG and Ripon Cathedral. The Chair queried if SCIE had recommended or referred to the Dean attending the Diocesan Strategic Safeguarding meeting, they had not but this was felt that this would be a matter for the new Dean in June. The Operational Director felt that constructive queries had been raised and they received a fair report with a good sense of direction of where to go from here.  **Cathedral Update**  Cathedral Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.  The Dean of Wakefield updated that the three Cathedrals are in the process of changing from oversight by Church Commissioners (CC) to dual oversight with CC and Charity Commission. Currently, Cathedrals do not fall under legislation for serious incident reporting. Implications are all chapter members, clergy and lay will become a trustee under a change in the legal structure. They transition at different points with full registration for Wakefield due early next year. Ripon and Bradford to follow. Further meetings were to take place to discuss timelines and the next steps.  The Dean outlined that like the SCIE report, this incurred an administrative burden, with huge requirements for multiple volunteers. He thanked the safeguarding team for their support.  It was agreed that the Dean of Wakefield and the Diocesan Secretary will discuss the Operational Safeguarding and attendance at SSG or separate meetings with Deans. The purpose and governance of the meetings are to be clarified. |
| **Update from DSA’s (circulated prior to the meeting)**  The safeguarding Team Leader gave an update on Safeguarding Dashboard and training. Extra Leadership courses were being arranged as there had been a trainer resource impact due to additional PSO Induction/PTO Pathway courses. Training accessibility was discussed and the trainer had created a paper version of Basic Awareness and was looking at developing accessible online training. |
| **Annual Report (Circulated prior to meeting)**  The safeguarding Team Leader updated that the new training packages were well received but presented additional time resources for the team to deliver. There were no negative responses from the Charity Commission on the Serious Incident Reporting the Safeguarding team had submitted, meaning they were satisfied with the way the cases had been managed.  The incoming Chair wanted to understand more about demand and capacity along with the complexity and type of demands. The Diocesan Secretary outlined that two further posts in safeguarding and additional hours were recently added.  It was agreed that it had been an unusual two years and difficult to assess any trajectory on work demand. There have been significant new outputs from NST, PCR2 and pandemic impacts. These should now be reduced, and it remains to be seen how we settle in an endemic world.  The Chair summarised the report which reads easily and commended the team and felt that overall it was a positive report with optimism around the new training and dashboard work. The Diocesan Secretary added that this forms part of a wider Diocesan report and will be noted at the Diocesan synod. It will be added to the website in a broader form in the annual report. |
| **PCR2 update**  The Safeguarding Team Leader confirmed our PCR2 report was successfully completed in Nov 2021. NST has updated that there are consistent themes across dioceses such as engagement with survivors and professional safeguarding teams. The timeline for publication of the report is the 23rd May.  The Safeguarding lead confirmed that there had been no specific cases or feedback so far on our report. The main issues identified were predominately on past historical cases where we often had a lack of detail.  The Communications Director outlined that the recommendation is to publish a Diocesan executive summary. Further clarity was required on what is to be published and templates for those reports. |
| **Any other business**  The Director of Communications raised official thanks to the legal registrar who retires shortly. The registrar has been exemplary in support and help and the Committee wanted to formally record their gratitude. The DSAs echoed that excellent support on casework. The SSG Chair added her thanks to the legal registrar for his guidance in meetings.  The Diocesan Bishop thanked the Chair for all of her work, the diocese is very thankful. The Chair thanked the Bishop for the opportunity and his leadership on this important issue  The outgoing Chair stated that she had enjoyed the lively debate of the SSC for 2 years and it had been a positive experience. The Diocesan Secretary thanked the Chair on behalf of the SSC, who was grateful for her counsel and direction. |