A summary of the meeting of the Diocese of Leeds

**Strategic Safeguarding Committee held 9 July 2020**

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| The Committee was updated on the Past Case Review 2 (PCR2) Reference Group meeting which took place immediately prior to this meeting and which some members of this Committee had attended. It had been a productive meeting and the work being done to support survivors was noted as positive. The PCR2 group is on track with its objectives. +Nick was thanked for the use of Hollin House for the Independent Reviewers to return, following the easing of lockdown, so that progress in reviewing files is maintained. |
| A discussion was held about the publication of minutes to provide greater transparency about the work of the Committee. This is also being discussed at national level. The National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG) publish a summary of work (since April 2020) and it was agreed that this could be used as guidance in terms of style and structure.  The meeting considered the comments of The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) feedback to Wakefield Cathedral, where concerns were raised about communication to all deans, as only the Dean of Bradford represents the Deans on the SSC. The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers (DSAs) support the Ripon Cathedral Strategic Safeguarding meeting to facilitate stronger links. The Terms of Reference of the SSC do not comment on the sharing of minutes, but SCIE view the SSC as a key asset which should be utilised.  Agreed action:   * the current service level agreement (SLA) should be revised. * in principle to consider whether the minutes or a summary should be published on the website. * to have an ‘Update from Cathedrals’ on each SSG agenda to ensure good communication was two-way * share the minutes with the Deans of the three Cathedrals. |
| The National Safeguarding Team (NST) is revising a suite of policies – multiple lengthy documents, with short timeframes for response, which require detailed consideration and impact on workloads. These are important policies to engage with and feedback on, but timescales are very challenging.  The officers were encouraged to feedback to NST, that although the policies are welcome it would be useful to have a plan for the forthcoming year to ensure thar time is set aside to respond.  The DSAs attended the C2 Virtual Leadership training for trainers. The course content is interactive and supports real evidence-based learning rather than passive attendance in a traditional setting.  The meeting noted the structure and content of the course and also, inevitably with the move to online learning, and a new course outline, that there are challenges, but they are being addressed. |
| The Safeguarding Team is involved in two major reviews and is contributing any information which is relevant, as requested.  Worship agreements – the current process has been strengthened to ensure agreements are followed up in a timely manner and that a signed copy is returned by the incumbent. |
| The Team used theSCIE Overview Report of Independent Safeguarding Audits of dioceses in the Church of England to undertake an internal audit. It gave the opportunity to consider the various elements of good practice highlighted in the document, and to compare with work in the Diocese of Leeds.  This is not a mandatory piece of work, but it has proved a useful document to check practices against, and also to note the good practice which is already taking place in Leeds. It has also highlighted some areas where the Team can make changes to improve practice. It is an internal working document which will change over time, rather than a strategic planning document. |
| The Terms of Reference of the PCR2 Reference Group and the PCR2 Project Plan were noted, having been shared prior to the meeting. These are available on the Diocesan website.  The Independent Reviewers return to work and estimate completion by end of March 2021, assuming that access to the files continues, but a more accurate timescale will be available three or four weeks into the restart. The potential cost of the process was discussed.  Action  It was agreed to write to the NST to raise the potential for the grant from the NST to exceed the amount which was originally in place. |
| PCR2 Survivor Strategy – a discussion took place on whether this should be considered as a diocesan strategy as well as in respect of PCR2. Support for survivors of abuse is a central part of managing every allegation. For that reason, it was agreed to revise the PCR2 Survivor Strategy into the form of a diocesan policy which reflects current practice. |
| The DSAs submit six monthly Serious Incident Report to the Charity Commission. This is submitted to the Charity Commission on behalf of parishes who have delegated this authority to the DSAs. Exceptional serious incidents are reported to the Charity Commission immediately and do not wait until submission of the six monthly report. |