

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2012 from 11.00 to 16.00
at the Lower Library, Archbishop's House, Ambrosden Avenue, Westminster, London
SW1P 1QJ

Part 1

Present: Declan Lang (chairing the meeting)
Jane Bertelsen
Matt Blake
Phil Dand
Peter Doyle
Elizabeth Hayes
Susie Hayward
Aidan Kilty
Danny Sullivan

In attendance: Adrian Child, Director CSAS
Rose Anderson, Secretary NCSC

Appointment of new Chair

Declan Lang began by introducing Danny Sullivan, who had been appointed as Chair of the Commission.

Danny spoke briefly about his background and members introduced themselves.

Danny had asked Declan Lang to chair this meeting.

Declan Lang also announced that there had been two resignations from the Commission: Roger Bird, who was no longer a Diocesan Chair and therefore not eligible to remain on the NCSC and from Terry Grange, for health reasons. A thank you letter had been sent to Roger Bird. **It was agreed that** Danny Sullivan would write to Terry Grange. **(ACTION: DS)**

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- 1 **Apologies for absence were received from:** John Arnold, Valerie Brasse, Kevin Caffrey, Kristian Paver and Carol Parry
- 2 **The Opening Prayer** was led by Matt Blake.
- 3 **The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2011** were accepted as a correct record subject to one amendment. **(ACTION: RA)**
- 4 **Matters arising from the minutes of 13th December 2011**
 - 4a. Action List:

Item 4- Diocesan Directories. This remained outstanding. **(ACTION: JB)**

Item 4- "From Grief to Grace" Jane Bertelsen advised members that she would be meeting with Fr Dominic Allain the next day.
 - 4b. Other matters arising, not already on the agenda.

National Conference Peter Doyle informed members that the presentation given by Terry Grange at the conference was very good, well presented and appreciated by the delegates. It was agreed that a copy of his paper should be sent to members. **(ACTION: AC & RA)**

5 Papers/items to be noted

5a CSAS

i. Management Group Meeting 2nd March 2012

Declan Lang referred to the ongoing discussions with regard to budget and fundraising. He also advised that because of the size of the department of CRC there is not always enough time to discuss safeguarding issues at length. This is an ongoing issue for discussion.

ii. Budget and Workload

Adrian Child reported that he had recently received a copy of the CSAS budget for 2012. It appeared to be as anticipated. A major concern is that the budget does not show an income code (e.g. income is received from conferences). And as a result year end accounts suggest that the budget is overspent, when in fact it is not. Adrian advised that the budget setting process for 2012 has been adjusted. Declan Lang advised that he and Jane Bertelsen had recently met with Fr Marcus Stock, General Secretary, CBCEW to discuss the finance and accounting arrangements

iii. CSAS Workload Tracker

The paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

5b NCSC

i. Budget Report

Rose Anderson referred to the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were some outstanding queries regarding the accounts for 2011 and these would be discussed with Fr Marcus Stock at a meeting with Declan Lang and Jane Bertelsen. The budget for 2012 would be £34,050- the same as in 2011. The expenditure from January 2012 to date was noted.

ii. Website report

The report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was noted. The report showed the number and pattern of hits over the previous 12 months.

iii. Response to the letter from Cardinal Levada re safeguarding

The first draft of this response had been prepared and was discussed at the Anglophone Conference in Rome, in February. Further amendments may be made required following discussion with the Seminary Rectors and the Bishops at their Conference in April. **It was agreed that** the draft response should be circulated to members.

(ACTION: JB & RA)

iv. Conferences:

a. "Towards Healing and Renewal" Gregorian University

Declan Lang gave a brief report on this conference. The main themes covered were: Care for survivors of abuse; Formation of seminarians and post ordination; the impact of culture and the need for the church worldwide to act.

b. Anglophone Conference -Rome

Adrian Child reported that the majority of the conference had centred around the responses to the letter from Cardinal Levada; discussion with Mgr Scicluna and a presentation from Peter Rush, the Chief Executive of the Catholic Church Insurance Ltd. Australia. Discussion with Mgr Scicluna had centred around the response to victims and survivors of abuse and the process of making complaints

to the CDF. The replies to Cardinal Levada, and the guidelines included would not gain “recognitio” but there would be a strong moral imperative that any guidelines signed off by bishops could form part of the “general recognitio”

Peter Rush described the way in which the Church in Australia is insured and how it manages victims and survivors of abuse. There is one company for all of the Church and most abuse cases are settled out of court and follow a pastoral and mediation approach. The speaker, Peter Rush, had offered to speak in other countries. **It was agreed that** Peter should be invited to give a presentation on his next visit to London. **(ACTION:AC&RA)**

c National Safeguarding Conference

Matt Blake described the conference as a great gathering with formal and informal exchanges. Peter Doyle informed members that the conference was demanding intellectually and emotionally with a number of cultural issues identified. In the evaluation some delegates had suggested having a separate conference for the “professionals”, however Peter Doyle advised that it is important that the professional met with everyone else in order to understand the diversity of people and life within the Church. He also suggested that it would be helpful to have more time built into the programme for reflection.

v. NCSC Membership

a. Appointment of Chair

The appointment of Danny Sullivan as Chair had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

b. Other vacancies/renewals

The following members first term of office would expire in July. They would all be eligible for a second term.:

Declan Lang- representing the Bishops Conference

Matt Blake, representing CoR

Valerie Brasse, Lay member

Kristian Paver, Canon Lawyer and Parish Priest- who had indicated that he would not be seeking a second term.

It was agreed that the Canon Law Society should be approached with regard to a replacement for Kristian Paver. **(ACTION: DS)**

Following the resignation of Roger Bird it was agreed that the Chairs of Diocesan Commissions should be approached to nominate a replacement. **(ACTION: DS & RA)**

Following the resignation of Terry Grange **it was agreed that** an advert be placed inviting applications for Lay members.

(ACTION: DS & RA)

vi. Towards a Culture of Safeguarding

Adrian Child referred to this paper which had been placed on the website. There was one outstanding issue- the timetable for implementing the changes in the designation of Safeguarding Coordinators and Officers. **It was agreed that** this should be set for January 2013. **(ACTION:AC)**

Adrian advised that he had sent an audit form to Chairs of Commissions asking them for information about the impact of the changes on their Commission. Following discussion it was noted that further work is needed, within the document, concerning the integration of the Religious into the Safeguarding Commissions. It was also noted that future communications relating to the document should be sent by the NCSC.

Integrity in Ministry

Jane Bertelsen referred to Cumberlege recommendation no 2. The Department of Christian Responsibility and Citizenship (CRC) within the CBCEW had taken responsibility for this and it was hope that the paper would go out for consultation later in the year.

6 Papers/items for discussion/approval

6a Annual Report 2011/2012 -Budget

Adrian Child referred to the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion **it was agreed** to reduce the number of paper copies of the report, and the leaflet would not be printed. There will be a focus on distribution by email. **The reduced cost of this was approved. (ACTION: AC & RA)**

7 Items for debate

7a Working with Survivors of Abuse

Susie Hayward, Matt Blake and Adrian Child reported on the ongoing meetings with the groups representing survivors. The presence of a facilitator had been helpful. However following discussion it was agreed that the Facilitator should not chair the meetings. Danny Sullivan suggested that he should join the group as chair and the facilitators role would then be to facilitate if this was still deemed necessary.

7b Restructuring of Safeguarding Commissions

Adrian Child advised that this project has several parts. The paper circulated prior to the meeting formed part 2 and set out the detail on the implications of restructuring. The paper would be presented at the CoR AGM later in the week. It had been supported by the Dept of CRC Who will support it at the Bishops' Conference in April.

Part 3 of the project will be the implementation phase and this should be by the end of the year.

Aidan Kilty advised that most of the Religious Congregations were now listed on the data base and that the work was on target, with the CoR Executive expected to endorse the paper.

There had been some concern about where authority lay if a Religious Congregation did not follow the policies and procedures. It was noted that authority lay with the Bishop because the Congregation is admitted to work in the diocese by the Bishop. Adrian Child advised that Bishop Moth had agreed to write a note on this to be included in the document.

Following further discussion it was noted that the Diocesan Commissions are being reorganised to include the Religious Congregations that have asked to be aligned to them.

It was noted that further discussion on funding between the dioceses, CBCEW, the Religious Congregations and CoR is needed.

It was agreed that the proposals in the paper be ratified by the NCSC.

7c Information Sharing Guidance

Adrian Child advised that there had been some misunderstanding in some dioceses of the status of this paper, which had been to clarify how information should be shared as set out in the various National policies and is a guidance on current law.

It was agreed that the Chair would write to the Bishops in the dioceses concerned. **(ACTION: DS & AC)**

7d Strategy

- i. Communications Sub group - Draft Communications Strategy
 Matt Blake referred to the paper which had been developed in the subgroup meetings and asked for clarification on 2 points:
- Should there be a deputy lay chair of the NCSC?
 - Should the NCSC have independent media advice?
- Following discussion **it was agreed that:**
 The Chair would explore the provision of independent media advice **(ACTION:DS)**
 Jane Bertelsen would draft a paragraph covering the relationship between the NCSC and CSAS **(ACTION: JB)**
 Comments on the draft document would be sent to the Secretary by the end of April **(ACTION: ALL)**
- ii. Link membership
 A paper showing link members and their link dioceses was tabled. There were still some dioceses without link members, but in view of current vacancies on the Commission it was noted that these would be filled in due course.
 In her absence Valerie Brasse had sent a paper with suggestions on the role of the link member.
 These proposals were discussed and it was agreed that he secretary would summarise the points raised and circulate a paper for comments. **(ACTION:RA)**
- iii. Other elements of strategy-Structures/Authority Sub Group
It was agreed that the development of the link role had removed the need for the structures subgroup to meet.
Main strategy **It was agreed that** further work on this would be deferred until the Communications Strategy was completed.

- 7e Study Day for Bishops and Congregation Leaders
It was agreed that the study day, due to be held in 2012, should be deferred until early in 2013. This day should be for the Bishops and the CoR Executive. Possible dates (5th or 6th February) should be offered to the Bishops at their meeting in April. **(ACTION: DL)**
 Possible speakers/topics for inclusion would be:
- Care of Survivors of Abuse
 - The Escalation Policy
 - Insurance : Peter Rush, Catholic Church Insurance Ltd. Australia;

- 7f Meeting with Chairs of Diocesan Commissions
 The Chair confirmed that he would be able to attend this meeting scheduled for 4th July 2012.

8 Any other business

The Chair would not be able to attend the next meeting scheduled for 25th June. It was agreed that this be rescheduled for Monday 2nd July. **(ACTION: ALL)**

Adrian Child advised that this would impact on the timetable for the Annual Report, which would have been ratified on 25th June.

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chairs would ratify this by 20th June.

(ACTION: DS, DL & JB)

9 Date and time of meetings in 2012:

2nd July 2012, at Archbishop's House; 11th September 2012; at CBCEW, 39 Eccleston Square, SW1V 1BX; 11th December 2012 at Archbishops House