

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION – PART 1

**Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4th December 2018 09.30-14.30
At Archbishop's House, Ambrosden Avenue, London,**

Present: Chris Pearson (Chair)
Marcus Stock MS
Rachel O'Driscoll RO'D
Lyndsay Spendelow LS
Brendan Killeen BK
Peter Houghton PH
Elizabeth Manero ES
Stephen Spear SS
Dave Marshall DM (SAP)
Paul Mason PM (part of meeting)
Philomena McClusky PM

In attendance: Colette Limbrick CL
Bernadette Speakman, Secretary NCSC

Apologies for absence were received from: Mark Davies and Mick Walker

1 Introduction and welcome.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting today and thanked them for their attendance.

2 The Opening Prayer This was led by Brendan Killeen

3 Members declaration of Interests and statement of Confidentiality

There were no declarations made. Confidentiality was agreed.

4 Minutes of the meeting held September 2018.

These were agreed subject to removal of # on page 2.

6 Matters arising from the minutes of 4th June 2018

6a Action list update

The current actions were updated and are detailed on the Action List.

7 Items for information and questions arising. CL provided a verbal update relating to the CSAS workplan tracker:

7ai Procedure development work is mostly complete.

7aii Access to designated police and social workers. CL has scoped with Safeguarding Co-ordinators but with little response. CL to follow up again and if no response, close the matter.

(ACTION CL)

7aiii The planned quality assurance exercise will go ahead next year.

- Referral and non-referral to statutory agencies;

- The management of risk of individuals within the church about whom there are concerns

CSAS will be appointing to a new role at the level of 'Assistant Director'. The creation of this role will increase capacity within the team and support the overall work of CSAS and the quality assurance programme.

7b NCSC

There is no budget report to present as the third quarter budget statements are not yet available. If possible, BS will circulate an update before the end of December.

8 Items for Discussion/Agreement

8a Volunteer recruitment and references.

CL reported that the change in policy of following up references had caused some issues around workload for volunteers in the Diocesan Offices, and it had been suggested that a more nuanced approach could be taken where gaps in information or discrepancies are followed up. This was agreed and CL will revise the policy and procedure to reflect this. (ACTION CL)

KP noted that as volunteers are increasingly subjected to formal processes this could lead to claims of employment status. KP and CL to follow up. (ACTION CL and KP)

8b Guidance regarding the use of the baths by children in Lourdes

MS reported significant progress on this issue. The Bishop of Lourdes exercises complete control and is putting more stringent procedures in place. MS has issued an instruction to his Pilgrimage Directors that no one under the age of 18 should be attending the baths. However, sometimes it is individual school or youth groups who go together not as part of a Diocese.

It was proposed that CP and CL write to the Pilgrimage Directors to strongly advise that U18s are not encouraged to use the baths at Lourdes and to seek reassurance that use of the baths by children and adults is risk assessed. (ACTION CP)

8c Quality Assurance.

CL outlined the purpose and process of the quality assurance exercises (papers relating to this had not been received by everybody prior to the meeting).

It was agreed that CSAS would undertake the QA exercise, assisted by the increased capacity in the team, rather than appoint an external agency that could not complete the work within the year.

CL will write to Bishops, Commission Chairs and Safeguarding Coordinators to inform them about the quality assurance exercise. (ACTION CL)

8d review of National Training Modules

The documents were discussed by members and paragraphs 12-17 – proposals for further development - of the paper drafted by RO'D were highlighted.

An updated paper will be returned to the March NCSC meeting for approval before submission for the Bishops' Plenary meeting in May 2019.

Evaluation and review would be built in once the programme is up and running and this will be added to the paper. Evaluation by attendees should also be built in.

It was also suggested that the SAP should be consulted and review the training outcomes as well as being involved in the development. RO'D suggested training videos may be a useful tool to ensure that survivors are not continually repeating their experiences, which is itself could add to increased trauma. (ACTION DM/CP)

8e Revision of Whistleblowing Policy

The revision of the original document had been circulated by CL. It was noted the dioceses and religious congregations should have their own local policy and that this national one refers people to the local management of whistleblowing. It was considered that the document would be more appropriately presented as an information sheet. CL to revise and produce as an information sheet.

Post meeting note. Following review, CL further discussed with KP and the document is produced as a national policy, making clear that it can be used in the absence of a local policy and procedure.

8f SAP Headlines Dave Marshall

- Maureen McGrath, the Safe Spaces Project Lead representative from the Church of England, now attends each meeting. It is anticipated that there will be a general meeting between the two panels of survivors in the New Year. However, as the Church of England group is new, they wish to function together initially before this;
- The leaflets for CSAS are now being worked on by SAP members, and it is expected that these will be available in draft form for the SAP January meeting;
- At the recent Safeguarding Conference three SAP members were speakers;
- Three new SAP members are shortly being interviewed by Dave Marshall and Chris Pearson;
- The SAP is looking forward to the potential launch of Safe Spaces in May or June 2019

9 Any other business

- The Pastoral Support Service was discussed yesterday in the meeting with Baroness O'Loan, and proposals for actions were discussed.
- A paper concerning how the NCSC and CSAS deal with complaints, proposing that an independent panel be established to examine complaints about Bishops and Religious Leaders, was agreed by Bishops in November and referred to NCSC for the drafting of the process. (ACTION CL)
- The 2019 NCSC Development Day. CP attended the CSAS Safeguarding Conference and suggests one speaker for our Development Day - Tammy Banks-Engaging with the community – a positive approach to safeguarding. Tammy is a survivor of abuse: KP will undertake a presentation. Any other thoughts on speakers, contact CP.

(ACTION CP/CL/KP)

End of part 1 of the meeting

10 **Dates of meetings 2019. All booked for 11.00-16.00**

5th March 2019 Hinsley Hall, Leeds

4th June 2019 Lower Library, Archbishops House, London

2nd September Hinsley Hall, Leeds

3rd September Hinsley Hall, Leeds. NCSC Development day (to be confirmed)

3rd December Lower Library, Archbishops House, London