

## **Summary of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee meeting on 6 March 2025**

### **Hope for Healing Service 2025**

A [Hope for Healing Service](#) for those who have been harmed by abuse and for those working with or supporting those who have been harmed would take place at Westminster Cathedral on 10 May 2025. This was recognised to be an important development.

### **Safeguarding Service**

It was noted that the Safeguarding Service had now successfully recruited a new Caseworker along with a DBS and Parish Safeguarding Manager. The previous Parish Safeguarding Manager would move to the post of Business Manager and Secretary to the Safeguarding Committee.

Productivity improvements were noted, with the number of DBS certificates issued rising by 42% in comparison with 2023 and a 99% increase in DBS Update Service certificates. Conversely, there was decreasing need to reject incomplete DBS applications, as PSR awareness of the requirements continued to grow.

There was concern about the adequacy of arrangements for Umbrella Agreements, whereby the Diocese was required to undertake free DBS checks but were not party to responses, risk management and any action subsequent to the disclosure of information leading to a 'blemished' DBS certificate. This issue required further discussion with the CSSA.

Work was underway to improve and encourage early engagement with statutory services, to allow for the pre-emptive development of Safeguarding Plans when a prisoner was released from prison on licence. This included developing links with National Probation and the National Prison Chaplaincy Lead, with a view to influencing licence conditions so as to minimise risk.

It was noted that the Diocese would move to the [CSSA's Learning Portal](#) from 1 July 2025.

### **Terms of Reference**

A number of minor amendments were made to the Safeguarding Committee terms of reference and terms of reference were approved for the Safeguarding Service. Both were referred to the Trustee Board for approval.

### **Safeguarding Service: Complaints Policy**

Amendments were agreed to the Complaints Policy, and the policy was referred to the Trustee Board for approval.

### **Practice Development & Training Sub Committee**

It was noted that the newly established Practice Development & Training Sub-Committee had held their first meeting. The Sub Committee Convenor was liaising with the five priests who had been selected by the Cardinal to support priests who were subject to an allegation, in order to assess their training needs. He was also liaising with the Vicar General as part of the process of training development. A Guide for Clergy Subject to an Allegation was in the process of being approved, and once this was available, training for the support priests would be arranged.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 3 July 2025.