

Summary of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee meeting on 3 October 2024

Safeguarding Service

The Chair welcomed the new Head of Safeguarding, Catherine Edginton, to the meeting.

Monawara Bakht was thanked for heading up the Safeguarding Service for the past 10 months.

It was noted that there had been several new staff appointments to fill vacant posts, including: an office manager, a case manager and a new member of the Safer Recruitment DBS Team.

New Committee Members

The Chair welcomed the new Committee members to the Committee: Susie Worthington, Deacon Paul Hewitt and Nicola O'Brien (the latter two new members were unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments).

National Tribunal Service

Dr Edward Morgan KC, as Chancellor of the National Tribunal Service, gave a very valuable presentation to the Committee relating to Service's operation, purpose, jurisdiction and work in practice.

Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS)

It was noted that all cases had now been transferred to the RLSS. Concern was expressed that the RLSS was not fulfilling all its functions, including that of training. Lack of ownership by the RLSS was of concern because it had the potential to impact adversely on the Diocese in terms of resources and risk. It was agreed that this should be raised with the Bishops' Conference.

CSSA Baseline Audit

On 3 September, the CSSA had published its Executive Summary of the [baseline audit](#) for the Diocese of Westminster. The Diocese had received an overall grading of 'firm progress' and the audit highlighted elements of good practice across the 8 standards. The aim now was to develop beyond this, via an approach centred on lessons learned and continuous improvement. The working party charged with implementation of recommendations had met to review and allocate leads against individual recommendations.

Victims and Survivors

A paper providing a summary of diocesan initiatives in relation to victims and survivors was referred to the Quality Enhancement and Assurance Sub Committee for further development.

Approvals

The Committee approved (and recommended to the Trustee):

- PSR Procedure and Guidance 2024 Version
- Volunteer Code of Conduct (noting that an equivalent document would be needed for clergy)
- Home Visiting Guidance for Adults and Families

The next meeting is on Thursday 6 March 2025.