

Summary of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee on 7 March 2024

Membership

It was noted that the long-serving Vice Chair of the Committee, Barbara Beese, had resigned for personal reasons. Barbara was thanked for her hard work and support to the Committee and the Safeguarding Service. A process was underway to recruit a number of new members to the Safeguarding Committee.

New Head of Safeguarding

The Chief Operating Officer, Paolo Camoletto, provided an update on recruitment to the new position of Head of Safeguarding. He outlined the recruitment process, which included input from the Safeguarding Committee at the various stages.

Working with Victims and Survivors

It was agreed that the special meeting of the Safeguarding Committee to discuss this critical area of work would be held following publication of the CSSA Audit Report.

Caritas

The new Director of Caritas, Richard Harries, attended the meeting. He described the work undertaken within Caritas on safeguarding in the eight months that he had been in post. It was noted that an overarching Caritas Safeguarding Policy was in place, with an appendix provided for each service area. A central reporting system had been implemented, with the responsibility resting with the Director of Caritas: where any referred matter was identified by him as a safeguarding concern, the Director liaised with the Safeguarding Service. Furthermore, with the support of the Safeguarding Service staff, training had been provided to the [Deaf Service](#) and [St Joseph's](#). Further joint work was planned on developing a volunteer policy.

Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS)

Contrary to previous advice, the Diocese had been informed that while the RLSS would provide safeguarding services to the Clergy, it would not do so for the lay faithful. The consequence of this was that that training, DBS checks and safeguarding concerns relating to the lay faithful would continue to sit with the Safeguarding Service.

Parish Audit Programme

It was agreed that the Parish Audit Programme planned for mid-2024 should be paused because of staff and committee member vacancies. Once the Safeguarding Service and Committee had recruited to these vacancies, the Programme would resume.

The next meeting is on Thursday 27 June 2024.