

Summary of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee meeting on 5 December 2024

Safeguarding Service

The Chair welcomed Commander Kevin Southworth from the Metropolitan Police, who had been appointed by H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols to act as an advisor to the Safeguarding Committee.

Religious Orders

There was some discussion of the arrangements flowing from decisions taken by Religious Orders as to whether to obtain safeguarding services from the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS) or the Diocese. This included consideration of the termination of alignment agreements, where an order obtained services from the RLSS, and the development of some form of agreement where the relationship with the Diocese continued. It was agreed that this was an area which required more work, including in the context of the Diocesan Cross Curia Committee.

It was noted that all live Religious Order cases and Safeguarding Plans had now been transferred to the RLSS, where necessary. It appeared, however, that responsibility for DBS, training and safeguarding plans for parishes run, or owned and run by Religious Life Groups would remain with the diocese. The diocese would also need to continue to provide DBS services and training for volunteers in these parishes. To address the potential for reputational and financial risk, the Catholic Insurance Service was drafting a Memorandum of Understanding.

CSSA Baseline Audit

The recommendations arising from the CSSA Audit were being progressed by a working party comprising: Bishop John Sherrington, the Head of Safeguarding, the Chief Operating Officer and the Chair of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee.

It was noted that there would be a light touch CSSA audit, involving self-assessment and a case audit, in February 2025, and the next full audit would take place in May 2026.

Victims and Survivors

There was discussion of the activity that had taken place to provide a service of Healing & Hope at the Cathedral in 2025. N.B.: It was subsequently been agreed that a service will take place in the Cathedral on 10 May 2025 at 14.30.

Support for respondent clergy

It was noted that H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols had identified five members of the clergy to become support persons for priests subject to an allegation.

Safeguarding Annual Report 2023

The Annual Report for 2023 can be accessed [here](#).

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 3 July 2025.