

Summary of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee meeting on 2 October 2025

CSSA Thematic Audit of Survivor Engagement in the Catholic Church

The Westminster Diocese was selected to participate in the CSSA Thematic Audit, with the auditors visiting the Diocese during the week beginning 3 November.

2025 Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) conference

The first PSR conference for some years was due to be held on the 11th October and would focus on victims and survivors and those impacted by abuse and mental health. Over 70 PSRs were booked to attend.

Parish Self-Assessment form

There had been a slight delay in issuing the new parish self-assessment form because of the need to address some technical issues, but it was to be issued to parishes shortly.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Committee Vice Chair, Bernadette Herbert, had again acted as Safeguarding Representative for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. She was supported by Monawara Bakht, Deputy Head of Safeguarding, who had reported viewing good safeguarding practice.

Companion Priests Initiative

There had been a further briefing meeting for those who had volunteered to act as companion priests to respondent priests/deacons. The meeting had been attended by the Vicar General and had included a presentation by the Reverend Doctor Barry O'Sullivan, a parish priest who was also a qualified and registered psychologist and psychotherapist. The presentation slides and the Rev Dr Barry O'Sullivan's article on difficult conversations were circulated to the committee.

A short process document was being developed setting out companion priests' responsibilities.

Impact and Evaluation

There was agreement that in addition to the qualitative data presented to the TSC, there was a need to measure and evaluate the impact of SGS work/the implementation of new processes.

Methodology would be developed for measuring impact and areas for focus would be identified and prioritised. Clergy training had been identified as the first area for measuring impact.

Training and Development

The Training Strategy has been further developed for the coming year, but could not be finalised until the national strategy was available.

It was noted that the Venerable English College in Rome had invited the Safeguarding Service to deliver their safeguarding training.

Policy and Guidance

The TSC approved the following for recommendation to the Trustee:

1. Home Visiting (Adults) Guidance: with minor amendments in phrasing and punctuation;
 2. Home Visiting (Families) Guidance: with minor amendments in phrasing and punctuation;
- and,

3. Strategic Safeguarding Plan 2025-2028: the plan was approved. [post meeting note: a copy of the Diocese of Westminster Strategic Safeguarding Plan, outlining challenges, outcomes and objectives, has been uploaded to the Diocesan website and can be found [here](#))]

Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 4 December 2025.