Summary of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee (TSC) meeting on 5 March 2026

Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Strategic Council for Catholic Safeguarding (SCCS)

The Chair welcomed Steve Ashley, Chief Executive of the CSSA, to the meeting. Mr Ashley provided an overview of the proposed changes to the national safeguarding structure, including the transfer of responsibility for safeguarding strategy, advice and guidance to the SCCS, and the development of the SCCS into a body focused solely on audit and assurance.

Members discussed the respective roles of the CSSA and the SCCS and expressed concerns regarding aspects of the proposed future structure. As a member of both the TSC and the SCCS Governing Board, Bishop Jim agreed to convey the Committee's feedback and concerns to the Governing Board for consideration.

It was further agreed that Dr Ed Morgan KC would prepare a report for the Trust Board on the proposed role of the SCCS, setting out the concerns that had been identified in discussions and identifying the risks that arose from the current proposals.

CSSA Safeguarding Policies and Guidance

Concern was expressed about the time it has taken for SCIE and LimeCulture to develop a suite of CSSA policies and procedures, and whether this exercise represented value for money. The draft documents had been published on a shared hub, and there were widespread concerns amongst the Dioceses about the quality of what had been provided.

Safeguarding Service

Work volume continued to increase across all work areas. The Service had, however, been operating at reduced capacity; the recent recruitment of a Safeguarding Officer and a Parish Support Outreach Co-ordinatorwould ease the situation.

St Vincent De Paul (SVP)

From 16 February 2026, the SVP would assume responsibility for processing their own new DBS and renewal DBSs, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Service would only process DBS applications for the SVP where the individual was undertaking a DoW parish role. This would have the benefit of reducing the workload for both PSRs in parishes and the Safeguarding Service.

Casework oversight

To promote transparency and effective oversight, it had been agreed that the Safeguarding Casework Sub-Committee would receive a comprehensive inventory of all cases that had come to the attention of the Safeguarding Service's Casework Team since the previous meeting, irrespective of their level of seriousness.

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

The position was that all volunteers in parishes needed to undertake safeguarding training, irrespective of whether the role required the holding of a DBS. Those holding a DBS undertook the CSSA LMS bespoke Level 3 online training module. For volunteers who did not require a DBS check, the Safeguarding Service was developing a PowerPoint-based training package for delivery in a group setting. The package would include a voice-over to ensure consistent messaging and designated pause points to facilitate discussion and reflection within the group.

Training for Eucharistic Ministers

The guidance had been published on the website.

Crime Policing Bill

The Crime and Policing Bill would receive Royal Assent shortly. It would introduce a new mandatory reporting duty for individuals in England undertaking key roles and regulated activities with responsibility for children. It was agreed that Dr Edward Morgan KC should produce a short briefing document setting on the implications of this legislative change for the seal of confession.

The next meeting is on Thursday 2 July 2026.