Summary of the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee (TSC) meeting on 2 July 2026

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

The Committee remained concerned about the lack of clarity around the respective roles of the Strategic Council for Catholic Safeguarding (SCCS) and the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). The SCCS Council's overly clerical composition and the need for wider lay membership was a matter of particular concern. Bishop James Curry agreed to raise these issues with the Council. Concerns also remained about the quality, cost and accessibility of draft national guidance, now under review with diocesan safeguarding leaders following SCIE's withdrawal from the development process.

Safeguarding Service

Despite reduced staffing and increased demand, the Service continued to manage casework effectively. Two new staff had joined the Service, and, following a resignation, recruitment had begun for another Safeguarding Officer.

Lower-level concerns were increasingly being reported, while links with the prison chaplaincy and associated services were being strengthened to enable safeguarding plans to be put in place before prisoners' release. The Committee welcomed the introduction of Parish Safeguarding Representative surgeries from July.

Parish self-assessment and strategic planning

The Committee approved the Parish Self-Assessment Briefing and its recommendations. Providing an electronic survey to parishes was intended to extend coverage beyond what could be achieved with a visits-based approach and also had the benefit of providing measurable data. Arrangements for obtaining feedback from non-responding parishes would be considered further.

The Committee also approved the revised Strategic Safeguarding Plan 2025–2028 and the associated action plan.

Policies, procedures and guidance

The Committee approved:

- the Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities document (annual review);
- Privacy Notice for Victims and Survivors (annual review);
- Conflicts of Interest in Safeguarding (annual review);
- Safeguarding Induction Process (annual review);
- Tenancy Guidance (review); and,
- Low Level Concerns poster (new document).

The Safe Recruitment Policy (review) and Low Level Concerns Policy (new policy) were endorsed, subject to further minor changes.

The document on managing allegations against those in a position of trust was not approved.

Quality assurance, casework and training

Quality Assurance and Enhancement Sub Committee: CSSA audit preparations remained a priority for the Sub Committee, and the focus of its work. The Committee welcomed the Sub Committee's work

on improving accessibility via developing an Easy Read version of the Diocesan *Commitment to Victims and Survivors*.

Casework Sub Committee: Case reviews continued to inform training and practice, and the Committee recognised the careful support provided where historical allegations could not progress.

Practice Development and Training Sub Committee: The three-year clergy training programme was to end in 2026, and an impact survey was being finalised which would both gather evidence on the impact of training at the 6 month post training point and inform the 2027-9 training programme and strategy. A narrated presentation had been developed for volunteers not requiring a DBS, to raise safeguarding awareness amongst this group.

Lourdes Pilgrimage safeguarding

The Committee approved six safeguarding policies and procedures for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Bernadette Herbert confirmed that the 2026 pilgrimage would be her last as Pilgrimage Safeguarding Representative. Succession planning was under way, with the Deputy Head of Safeguarding attending the pilgrimage to consider future arrangements, including the management of a pilgrim subject to a safeguarding plan.

Other matters

The Committee approved the 2024 Annual Report for presentation to the July Trustee meeting. Dr Ed Morgan was to prepare a short note for the Safeguarding Service on the new mandatory reporting law and its implications for information received in confession. Members were also advised that a new Vicar General would support the Safeguarding Service from September, and members recorded their appreciation for Mgr. Martin Hayes's contribution to diocesan safeguarding.

The next meeting is on Thursday 1 October 2026.