

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022

Via TEAMS Video Conferencing

**Present:**

Jon McAdam (Independent Chair) (JMc)

Bridget Robb (Independent Member) (BR)

Revd Canon Steve Benoy (Director Ordinands) (SB)

Revd Denise Maud (Parish Representative with expertise in Health) (DM)

Revd Canon Tim Alban Jones (Vice Dean Peterborough Cathedral) (TAJ)

Deirdre Newham (Independent Member) (DN)

**In Attendance:**

Andrew Roberts (Diocesan Secretary) (AR)

Sue Ratcliffe (Assistant Diocesan Secretary) (SR)

Bev Huff (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) (BH)

1. **Opening prayers**

Led by Revd Canon Tim Alban Jones

1. **Introductions and Apologies for Absence**.

Peter White (Director Children and Youth (PW)

Peter Cantley (Director of Education) (PC)

Christine Lamb (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) (CL)

Angie Barber (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) (AB)

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 December 2021 were approved.

1. **Matters arising and review of action points not otherwise covered on the agenda.**

Review Risk Assessment Template

Action: BH/SR

1. **Update on the National Sharing Protocol (DBE)**

The panel were advised there is no further movement on this issue which was first discussed in July 2019; the audit trail is incomplete due to a lack of a written response from the National Education Team on the matter.

**Action:** PC to revisit this and provide and update, to provide a copy of the letter sent to the National Education Team in 2019, and a written response from the National Education Team on the matter of information sharing given the passage of time since the original letter was sent.

1. **DSA’s Report**

The report was provided to panel members in advance of the meeting to provide time for reading. There were no questions arising. BH took the panel through the caseload data which indicates a further increase in Information and Advice Consultations in 2021. Quarterly caseload data indicates cases plateaued in the last quarter of 2021.

Learning and Development Strategy 2022 – 2024

CL is proving to be a valuable resource in moving forward the safeguarding training in the diocese. Much time has been spent training the volunteer trainer cohort to provide face to face training for those people who do not wish or are unable to do on line training.

The use of clergy to fulfil the theological training in the second part of the leadership module has proved both enlightening and successful. A positive outcome helped through by the support of the DSAP in making this possible. Thanks were given to TAJ for his exceptional support in this area. St Albans diocese have attended and are adopting the same model. The reflective pieces emerging from the January training are now being submitted and the DSA’s are reviewing these to ensure the training is heading in the right direction.

There has been some cancellations due to lack of attendance and this is likely to put further strain on resources but we shall monitor the impact as and when it appears. Safer Recruitment training will be subject to additional promotion to improve take-up.

CL has published a Safeguarding Learning and Development newsletter and publication of this will alternate with the safeguarding update newsletter.

The importance of the educational background of staff, officers and volunteers and the impact this has on their ability to engage with and complete safeguarding training was discussed. This is something the DSA team are aware of and whilst there is no empirical data on what the educational profile looks like, the DSA’s do have accessibility and inclusivity at the heart of their thinking around training.

The Parish Audit Dashboard continues to be promoted and the safeguarding team are looking to use learning from parishes where this is used to mentor parishes where it isn’t. We will start paying the full price for the system next year as our negotiated price reduction ends at the end of 2022.

**Action:** BH to enquire how duplication of data input in multi parish benefices can be reduced.

The Victim and Survivor Engagement Strategy will be brought to the June DSAP for discussion following conversations with the NST. BH is currently seeking information from DSA peers to see how they are progressing survivor led support groups.

Prevention work is included in the main DSA report to give the DSAP an overview of the direction of travel this work is taking. Information sharing with Northants Police has deteriorated because of key people moving on. To resolve this ‘people’ dependent issue BH and SR have met with the lead information officers in Northants Police to discuss a mutually agreeable way forward. The National Church Data Lead is currently working with the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) to draw up a national ISA to ensure all diocese and police force areas have a consistent approach. These two strands of work will come together in the not too distant future. In the mean time we will continue to work with the Northants Information lead.

1. **Area Lead Updates**

**Vocation and Formation:** SB provided a comprehensive update in paper form in advance of the meeting from which there were no questions. In his update SB outlined the significant amount of work undertaken in his area to ensure safeguarding remains at the core of their work practices. The NST move to embed the national framework for discernment and selection for ordained ministry was now cascading with regard to lay ministry. This will introduce consistency across the two processes, which is to be welcomed. SB highlighted the difficulties in seeing the complete picture of a candidate across the various stages of their ordination journey. Often entering training exposes people in a way the discernment process does not, and similarly, curacy can see a candidate presenting differently again. Institutional memory is vital but this is a national weakness. Panel members debated the difficulty facing the safeguarding arena when charismatic well liked people reported to be a safeguarding risk. The case of Ben Field was seen as a good example, and highlights how even the best DDO’s can be misled.

Psychotherapeutic Assessments become compulsory from September as a result of IICSA; work has been done to find the resources and funding to do this. SB concluded with the news he is moving on from his DDO role but will still attend DSAP as the Bishop’s Chaplain, and in his role as part time canon missioner at the Cathedral when he takes this role up.

**Cathedral:** TAJ gave an update on the recent SCIE audit concluded at the Cathedral. Initial feedback was good with very few ‘questions’ for the Cathedral to consider. An action plan has been drawn up and is published on the website.

DN reflected on the breadth of safeguarding work and asked panel members to consider how we prioritise the things we need/wish to do well; as opposed to trying to do everything less well. It was suggested there is an annual agenda item to ensure this is considered.

1. **NST Safeguarding Training – progress**

This is covered in depth in the DSA’s Report to the panel dated March 2022

1. **Any Other Business**

BH will be sharing the link to the General Synod presentation from a Survivor on abuse.

SB asked for the date of the next meeting to be correctly recorded as 09/06/2022.

SR gave a brief update on the National Safeguarding Case Management System which is being rolled out this year. This diocese is in phase two which should be in the last quarter of 2022. The project will be led by SR, and whilst there will be some short term pain, the long term benefits are many.

SR also proposed that the secretariat function for the DSAP should move to the safeguarding team in future. This will allow SR to sit on the panel in her role as governance lead, which will be vital during and after the implementation of the NSCWMS.

AR pointed out this was to be BH last meeting as DSA for the diocese as she is soon to be leaving. Further reflecting on the significant difference Bev has made to safeguarding in this diocese and the exceptional improvements she has driven through in her time here. Bev will be greatly missed by all and we wish her well. JMc agreed with AR and reflected on the support and guidance Bev has given him in his time as chair. We should not overlook the positive impact Bev has made.

In response BH commented The DSA team is a team effort historically, Elizabeth Ingham and then Garry Johnson built the foundations for me and my team to build on. The future looks exciting in the safeguarding world, giving Christine Lamb, Angie Barber and my replacement significant opportunities to build the next layers of safeguarding for the Diocese and continue to strive to make our churches safe spaces / places for all.

There are great things going on in parishes benefices and the Cathedral – and we mustn’t become complacent but reflect and aim to improve where we can.

I want to say a massive thank you for the opportunity that I have been given in working within the Diocese of Peterborough.

1. Confirmed dates for 2022 Meetings; all 14:00 – 16:00 via TEAMS unless otherwise notified before the meeting.

09/06/2022

22/09/2022

08/12/2022

***“I believe that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults should be the highest priority of all parts of the Church ... There are no excuses for shortcomings.” Archbishop Justin Welby, 14 February 2013***