A summary of the meeting of the Diocese of Leeds

**Strategic Safeguarding Committee (SSC) held 11th November 2021 2pm to 4pm.**

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| The Diocesan Bishop updated the Committee on the Permission To Officiate (PTO) Renewal process. A high volume of PTO’s have been returned to his office for renewal. Those with PTO are being contacted to book leadership training and liaise with the Bishop’s Office. It is recognised that some have issues in accessing zoom and these individuals are being supported with alternative ways to complete this course.The Independent Chair asked for assurance that action points were being followed up in relation to the lessons learned review case. The DSA team leader confirmed that the safeguarding team were working on models to improve training for clergy and others involved with safeguarding/worship agreements around offender management. It was agreed the plan should be updated at the next meeting.Agreed action:* Action, update to be given on the Lessons Learned Action Plan at the next Strategic Meeting in March 2022.
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| The Committee was updated on the work of the Past Case Review 2 (PCR2) Reference Group which had met just before the SSC. A draft report was discussed with the independent reviewers giving assurances that the report will be provided by the end of November to meet the national timescale. No significant deficits had been highlighted and the report is comprehensive and thorough. A few outstanding queries were to be addressed and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors (DSAs) confirmed that they were all available in the office the following week to address and discuss with the independent reviewers the final queries.Agreed action:* DSAs to attend the office to progress final enquiries.
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| A report from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors (DSAs) had been circulated prior to the meetingThe Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers updated the committee with statistics around current casework. The Serious Incident Report (SIR) will be submitted to the Charity Commission as required in January 2022. Safeguarding/Worship Agreements were discussed. It was noted that the agreements could be time-consuming for the DSAs and could involve transient people creating a lot of work around the risk assessment/agreement for them to quickly move on with the agreement then not being required. The DSAs on occasion can meeting resistance from the Support Group and when this occurs there is liaison with the Archdeacons.The Safeguarding Dashboard continued to receive positive feedback from Parishes and the team continued to support and promote the take up and use of this system. There is now 68% take up around the Diocese.Safeguarding Leadership Courses continue to run, with on average three sessions a week and evening sessions being provided. Positive feedback around this course was provided in advance of the meeting to the Committee. It was noted that the Domestic Abuse and Safer Recruitment on-line courses were now available. A query was raised as to why PCC members are expected to complete the Domestic Abuse Course, it was agreed that this would be clarified with NST.* Action NST to be contacted to clarify the rationale behind PCC members being asked to complete the Domestic Abuse Online Course.
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| The Wakefield Cathedral Dean attended the meeting and said that in future a written report would be available incorporating updates from all the three Cathedrals. Ripon Cathedral had completed their Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE audit) and understand that the report was positive. The Bradford SCIE audit was pending their sign off in the next week. It was noted that the same people prepared the reports for all three Cathedrals. |
| An update was given to the Committee by the NST Safeguarding Lead/Bishop around the main items from the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG) which included:-* Work on the national redress scheme. A project Board has been established with representatives from across the church.
* Interim Support Scheme. This supports those in urgent need, victims and survivors of abuse in a church context.
* Safeguarding Learning and Development – The Senior Leadership Pathway is underway.
* IICSA Response – The NST have drawn up a programme of work to respond to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
* The new Safeguarding Children and Young People and Vulnerable adult guidance is going back to the House of Bishops in December and if approved will be rolled out in July 2022.
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