

MINUTES – National Catholic Safeguarding Commission – Part 1

Tuesday 02 June 2020 – 09.30 - 11.00 – 13.00 – 15.00

Video conference with order of the agenda according to the availability of guests

Present:

+ Mark Davies (MD)
Fr Nicholas Edmonds-Smith (NES)
Sr Eileen Glancy (EG)
Fr Brendan Killeen (BK)
Mrs Elizabeth Manero (EM)
Mr Dave Marshall (DM) – Survivor Advisory Panel
+ Paul Mason (PM)
Mr Patrick McDermott (PMD) (Commission Chair Rep, Leeds)
Ms Rachel O’Driscoll (ROD)
Mr Chris Pearson (CP) – Chair
Ms Kathy Perrin (KP) – Catholic Insurance Service,
Mr James Reilly (Commission Chair Rep Jesuits)
+ Marcus Stock (MS)

In attendance: Ms Christine Edgar (CE) – CSAS Safeguarding Manager
Mrs Anna Gebski (AG) – NCSC Secretary (Minutes)
Professor Sheila, the Baroness Hollins (SH) – Chair, SAP Review
Matthew Hemson (MH) – SAP Review
Dr Colette Limbrick (CL) – CSAS Director

Apologies: Mr Peter Charlesworth (PC) (Safeguarding Coordinators Rep)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies as above received prior to the meeting.

2. Introduction and welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone, especially James Reilly, who has joined the Commission as a Commission Chair representative and Sheila Hollins who is chairing the Survivor Advisory Panel Review supported by Matthew Hemson. Everyone introduced themselves.

3. Opening Prayer

+Mark led the opening prayer.

4. Members declaration of interest and statement of confidentiality

There were no declarations made, but should they arise they will be noted. Confidentiality was agreed.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 03 March 2020**

The minutes were accepted by the Commission.

Post meeting note: Point 9b from the above minutes read as

IE informed Members of the current progress of the inquiry he is chairing.

This should read as:

IE informed Members of the current progress of the review he is chairing.

6. **Actions Updates**

The action plan was updated. The following was noted:

Action 1: Liability update by KP during September development day

Action 3: Close current action 3 and create 2 x new action points: **Approved**

a) Comms Sub group to address new pages for website.

b) Comms Sub group – to do a full review of Comms Strategy

Action 7: Model constitution for Commissions: Cardinal Nichols is still to approve some elements in the document. Members felt that this work should be offered to Commissions in the interim so that they can use this draft on a voluntary basis as a guide to good governance. **Action:** EM will send a copy to IE with the intention to send to Commissions.

Action 24: SAP Review completed, questions sent to SAP which considered at the meeting. Action closed - **Approved**. New items resulting from the SAP Review will start a new action point.

Action 26: Expenditure explanation offered by finance. Action closed - **Approved**

7. **SAP Review Report**

CP thanked SH and MH for attending the meeting and for delivering the Survivor Advisor Panel Review Report. The report has been viewed by both the NCSC and SAP. The NCSC discussed the report at their meeting in March and then invited SAP to consider some questions around the report recommendations, which will support the NCSC in further discussion. The SAP responses form part of the meeting papers. CP invited SH and MH to offer some further thoughts on the report.

- MH underlined the ministry in the church that SAP members provide. As an advisory panel, they provide a valuable insight from the perspective of the survivor and victim. Developing closer communication links between the NCSC and SAP as suggested in the recommendations will develop a greater understanding of the complementary roles of the two bodies.
- SH confirmed that SAP is part of the solution to bring healing to the church and their voice should have a central place. The survivor/victim voice should play an integral part in training for a better understanding of why policies and procedures are necessary. Consideration should be given to finding the right solution for a permanent place for survivors and victims' during safeguarding training that offers them the right framework and level of support and where they can be heard. The report also recommends ways to strengthen the relationship between the NCSC and SAP. SH concluded with thanks for the opportunity to review the SAP and their valuable work, which is now seen as a model in other countries.
- The Commission also considered the feasibility of measuring the impact of the SAP so that their work is not just anecdotal. As an advisory panel, the SAP provides valuable input into the work of the NCSC and this has been highlighted in numerous projects and input into policies and procedures. All of SAP recommendations have been considered, but not necessarily implemented at this point but all agreed that an increase in the level of

communication between the two bodies will lead to a greater understanding of the role and work of each. Moving forward the Commission will place SAP items at the beginning of NCSC agendas and will promote regular joint development days, starting with one in the autumn. All further recommendations from the SAP review will be considered at the next meeting so that the SAP ministry can be further developed. The joint development day will be an opportunity to move this forward and create a strategy together.

- SH and MH will prepare a final letter to accompany the SAP Review Report that will outline the progress made since the report was written, including the developments from the meetings with both the SAP and the NCSC.

8. CSAS update

- a) The Annual Report 2019 – work could start on the narrative, SAP have been invited to contribute suggestions towards the theme, which they have done.
- b) 2018 Annual Report Data – this has been compiled and will be published on the website.
- c) Policy and Procedure – Part 3 – Data Protection – these documents are being revised. A webinar training event, followed by a QA session, will be created and the documents will be published.
- d) Management of Allegations against Bishops and clergy – the policy updates have been approved by the Bishops' plenary. CL awaits approval of a change related to Vos Estis Lux Mundi in respect of allegations made against Bishops and Religious Leaders.
- e) Training Policy Paper – this was also approved but the issue of linking training with celebrets was removed and required further consideration from the bishops.
- f) Claims guidance – work in progress with CIS.
- g) Complaints Policy – work in progress with Financial Secretaries.
- h) Training Role – Liam Ring is now developing his role. He has been working with the African chaplains. He has built bite size resources around domestic violence and slavery and is now working on child sexual exploitation. Liam is working with the bishops, the Gregorian College, Oscot and Caritas to develop and deliver training.
- i) A core group of Commission Chairs is looking at i) Quality Assurance for Safeguarding Commissions, ii) review of supervision and management standards, iii) update of induction pack for Commission members.
- j) CE has been working on an ecumenical project around children on the internet. Porticus has agreed funding and would like to expand the project. However, this may not proceed, as the Scripture Union appear to have done something similar. Work is in progress to review the work of the SU.
- k) Children's rights and responsibilities – CE is working with CYNFED in preparing a discussion paper – the group are looking at posters, leaflets and an app.
- l) CE will draft a paper to support parishes in responding to the expected spike in reports of domestic abuse once churches reopen.
- m) The CSAS conference for December is still being planned.
- n) CL asked the Commission for opinion on training exemptions. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic face to face training is not being provided to clergy. The issuing of Celebrets is linked to having undertaken training and this is clearly not possible at this time. The local bishop and Commission will need to make the decisions and it is expected that priests attend the next available event. CL will draft guidance and send to vice chairs for confirmation.
- o) Safeguarding Coordinators have asked for a position on the minimum level of safeguarding service that should be delivered during the Covid-19 period. There are government guidelines on safeguarding which should be observed and the message is that safeguarding does not stop. There may be latitude around training but

responding to victims/survivors, case management and risk management must continue. Dioceses and religious commissions best know their resources so are better placed to determine local needs. CL will draft an email for approval by Chair and Vice Chairs.

9. **Any other business**

- a) Representatives from the Breaking Boundaries project in Durham will be invited to the September development day.

Dates and venues of future meetings:

During Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the work of the NCSC continues through electronic and virtual meetings.

Monday **07 September 2020** - Meeting now cancelled

Tuesday **08 September 2020** - Online meeting 09.00-11.00 and 12.00-14.00

Friday 02 October 2020 - Morning NCSC meeting, Afternoon joint development session with SAP

Tuesday **01 December 2020** - Location dependent on circumstances

Wednesday **02 December 2020** – location tba