

## **MINUTES – National Catholic Safeguarding Commission – Part 1**

**Tuesday 08 September 2020 – 09.00 - 11.00 – 12.00 – 14.00**

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

**Present:** Mr Peter Charlesworth (PC) (Safeguarding Coordinators Rep)  
Fr Nicholas Edmonds-Smith (NES)  
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**  
Mr James Reilly (Commission Chair Rep Jesuits)  
+ Marcus Stock (MS)  
Ms Dani Wardman (DW) Conference of Religious

**In attendance:** Ms Christine Edgar (CE) – CSAS Safeguarding Manager  
Mrs Anna Gebski (AG) – NCSC Secretary (Minutes)  
Dr Colette Limbrick (CL) – CSAS Director

**Guest speakers from the Boundary Breaking Project:** Durham University: Dr Marcus Pound, Dr Giuseppe Bolotta, Dr Catherine Sexton – for half an hour

**Apologies:** + Mark Davies (MD), Sr Eileen Glancy (EG), Ms Kathy Perrin (KP) – Catholic Insurance Service,

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 Dani Wardman, who has joined the Commission as the Conference of Religious (CoR) representative and Religious Vice Chair. Everyone introduced themselves.

3. **Opening Prayer**

BK 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 02 June 2020**

The minutes were accepted by the Commission.

- CL confirmed that the 2018 Data Report was published in July.

6. **Actions Updates**

The action plan was updated. The following was noted:

**Action 17:** Version 3 of policy for dealing with complaints ready to submission to Financial Secretaries for review before finalisation.

**Action 27:** The NCSC 2019 Annual Report is still in progress.

7. **Survivor Advisory Panel**

- a. **SAP Chair report:** DM confirmed that the meeting in January 2020 was the last face to face meeting that took place due to the pandemic, but that online meetings took place in May and July. The July meeting was also attended by the Boundary Breaking Project team. Members of SAP attended the virtual Safe Spaces meeting organised by Victim Support. SAP had hoped that the final project would include support for survivors of Catholic families.

SAP members are looking at the SAP ToR and how this could be adapted for use for local SAP's and how best they can also be co-ordinated. The Audit Tool is being developed, supported by EM. There are currently 8 members in SAP, there are a couple of potential candidates for the future. The next meeting is in October.

- b. **Hollins Report: Suggested way forward:** CP confirmed that a copy of the Hollins Review of SAP and her final letter was sent to IICSA. ROD and EM prepared a briefing paper, which was circulated prior to the meeting outlining the Review recommendations, further suggestions from SAP and their own ideas for implementation of the recommendations. The paper was considered by the Members.

Members considered the recommendation to find a better way for the authentic voice of survivors to be heard by NCSC members. The SAP report is now tabled for the start of the agenda and a joint development meeting has been arranged for October. Consideration can then jointly be made regarding other proposals in the paper. EM and ROD will work with DM to consider the guidelines for the role of a Deputy Chair for SAP. SAP will consider what projects they could present to the NCSC.

**Action:** DM, ROD and EM will scope ToR for Deputy Chair for SAP.

Members considered the recommendation to create an independent Speakers Panel, which would lie outside of the Church. Baroness Hollins has confirmed that she is willing to support this project.

**Action:** ROD and EM will prepare a scoping paper outlining the options.

8. **CSAS update**

The CSAS Tracker was circulated prior to the meeting. Some items have moved to amber/pending due to the movement within the Independent Review as well as the IICSA report and the impact of possible recommendations. CL is moving on with critical items.

9. **Independent Review**

Documents relating to the Review are circulated as and when the Review Panel recommends to the Review Steering Committee. The NCSC web page has been updated with information about the review. The final report is due for 25 September and the NCSC will discuss the report at the meeting on 02 October. The report will be presented to the Bishops' Conference in November 2020.

The NCSC continues to support safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales in a balanced way while awaiting the outcome of the review and the recommendations. MS confirmed that the work of the Review Panel drew in a broad range of engagement within the Church. After the report is published Ian Elliott intends to hold meetings with various stakeholders. The Communications strategy is being supported by Maggie Doherty (CBCEW). There has been wide engagement and consultation with stakeholders including victims and survivors of abuse by those in the Church throughout the consultation process. The SAP has also been updated with information that has been made available by the Review Panel.

**10. Safe Spaces**

The SAP representatives have been actively involved in the procurement process of the Safe Spaces project resulting in Victim Support being appointed as providers of the service.

**11. Boundary Breaking Project:**

Durham University attendees: Dr Marcus Pound, Dr Giuseppe Bolotta, Dr Catherine Sexton. The project outline was circulated prior to the meeting. The members of the project team consider the NCSC and SAP to be key to their research and would like to benefit from their expertise in both focused group discussions and through individual interviews. The pandemic is having a huge impact on the project, as it is not possible to do the face-to-face meetings they had anticipated. The project aims to conclude in summer 2023 with a colloquium in autumn 2023. The final report aims to be a theologically Church faced report with practical recommendations. They have funding support for the term of the project and the sponsors are aware of the restraints of the project due to the pandemic. The project will also look at the Catholic family, both as a wider context and as the unit from which priests come to serve in the Church. The NCSC confirmed its commitment to support the project in any way they can, but the outcome of the Independent Review may have an impact on the arrangements. Dr Pound will circulate the Rules of Engagement for the Project.

**12. Any other Business**

- a) No AOB. CP requested that members inform in advance if they have any other business for the meetings so they can be put onto the agenda. This helps during virtual meetings, which are necessarily shorter than face-to-face meetings.

**Dates and venues of future meetings:**

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

**Post meeting note:** The proposed joint development session with the SAP has been postponed until December, as the meeting agenda for 02 October 2020 needs to focus on the full implications of the Independent Review Report.

**Friday 02 October 2020** – virtual meeting: 10.00 – 12.00 and 13.00 – 15.00

Tuesday **01 December 2020** - Location tba

Wednesday **02 December 2020** – location tba