

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

### **FINAL SCHEDULED MEETING –**

**Thursday 18 February 2021 – 10.00 - 12.00**

Video conference,

**Present:** + Mark Davies (MD)  
Fr Nicholas Edmonds-Smith (NES)  
Fr Brendan Killeen (BK)  
Mrs Elizabeth Manero (EM)  
+ Paul Mason (PM)  
Mr Patrick McDermott (PMD) (Commission Chair Rep, Leeds)  
Ms Rachel O’Driscoll (ROD) Vice-Chair – Meeting Chair  
+ Marcus Stock (MS) Vice-Chair  
Ms Dani Wardman (DW) Conference of Religious, Vice-Chair

**In attendance:** Mrs Anna Gebski (AG) – NCSC Secretary (Minutes)  
Mrs Carol Lawrence (CLa) – Project Implementation Director  
Dr Colette Limbrick (CL) – CSAS Director

**Opening:** Cardinal Vincent Nichols

**Apologies:** Ms Christine Edgar (CE) – CSAS Safeguarding Manager, Sr Eileen Glancy (EG), Mr Dave Marshall (DM) – Survivor Advisory Panel, Ms Kathy Perrin (KP) – Catholic Insurance Service, Mr James Reilly (JR) - Commission Chair Rep, Jesuits

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

It was noted that Peter Charlesworth had now left his post as a Safeguarding Coordinator and therefore had resigned his position on the NCSC. EG could not attend due to a sudden commitment. DM had advised in advance that he was unable to attend, but EM, as NCSC representative on SAP, presented information on the SAP. CE, KP and JR were also unable to attend.

#### **2. Introduction and welcome**

ROD, as Lay Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting and welcomed all present. This change was necessary due to the sudden death of the NCSC Chair, Mr Chris Pearson, at the end of January.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols was invited to this last scheduled meeting of the NCSC and opened the meeting with a prayer, remembering Chris for his generosity and commitment to safeguarding in the Catholic Church and in the wider community. Chris had presented NCSC matters regularly at the Bishops’ Plenaries and the Cardinal stated that his wisdom had helped the bishops gain confidence in moving the safeguarding agenda forward. Cardinal Nichols

expressed his thanks to the NCSC for their generous and selfless support in delivering the Elliott Report to the Bishops and for their support in this transitional phase where recommendations were being implemented.

He also thanked the NCSC, and especially CL, for the continued delivery of the Commission's annual report and pointed out that recent reports had clearly given victims and survivors the confidence to come forward to report their experiences, something which he welcomed. The Cardinal left the meeting at this point.

ROD welcomed Carol Lawrence and invited her to introduce herself to those present at the meeting. Members also introduced themselves in turn.

ROD confirmed that this was likely to be the last NCSC meeting as progress on implementation of the Elliott Report recommendations was progressing at a pace, such that the strategic work of the NCSC was concluded. The Vice-Chairs would continue to address any required action in the transitional phase, including ensuring a handover of relevant documentation. The NCSC would continue to exist to support this work and until the new safeguarding resource became fully operational.

3. **Opening Prayer**

Cardinal Vincent Nichols led the opening prayer.

4. **Members declaration of interest and statement of confidentiality**

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

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 01 December 2020**

The minutes were accepted by the Commission.

6. **Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) – Moving Forward**

- a) CLa confirmed that work on the Implementation Plan (based on the recommendations of the Elliott Report and accepted by the Bishops' Plenary in January) was gaining momentum. The six month implementation timeframe was on track. Communication of project progress appeared to be working well: a newsletter was being published fortnightly and the website had received over 250 unique visitors.
- b) The CSSA had been established as a limited company on 05 February 2021, St Agatha's Day. Preparation for the recruitment of directors was taking place, with the support of Saxton Bamfylde consultants. Open advertising and search and select methods would be implemented in the recruitment process. The selection panel would include CLa, Sir Peter Fahy, former Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, and one other (to be confirmed). The Task Group (formerly the Project Steering Group) would formally sign off any recommended appointments. The Task Group included Archbishop Malcolm MacMahon, PM, MS (representing the bishops), Fr David Smolira and DW (representing the Religious Life Groups - termed ICLSAL in the Elliott Report), Dr Edward Morgan (leading on the National Tribunal Service) and others.
- c) CLa was currently working with 17 individual victims and survivors and more were coming forward. These included those who had provided evidence to IICSA. CLa had met with the Survivor Advisory Panel in January and would be inviting their support in the near future with the training workstream, after the initial review into training needs and the national training framework (which would set out the type of training for each role within the Church) was completed (estimated to be by the end of March).

This would require a significant contribution from SAP. Both individual survivor engagement and the SAP contribution were critical to the work of the CSSA and would be effected by both 1:1 and group engagement.

- d) The SAP ToR had been reviewed during the SAP meeting attended by CLa and were being edited for further consideration and adoption within the CSSA. The changes would take into consideration the changing circumstances of the SAP, from a subgroup of the NCSC to a survivor reference panel within the CSSA. EM thanked CLa for attending the SAP meeting and confirmed that SAP were very pleased to engage with the ToR and were working amongst themselves to consider the ToR further. It was noted that there were 5 victims and survivors within the SAP. The next SAP meeting was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> April, but an earlier one could be arranged if necessary. **Actions 1 and 2:** AG would provide CLa with individual contact details for SAP Members and CLa, DM and EM would consider possible dates for an earlier SAP meeting.
- e) It was noted that a separate Survivor Reference Charter was being drafted to govern engagement with individual victims and survivors.
- f) EM enquired about the audit work of the CSSA and how the SAP developed audit tool (comprising 6 principles) could be built into ongoing work. CL would consider this further in line with the standards and audit model work currently underway. **Action 3:** CL and EM would consider how the SAP audit tool could be incorporated into the CSSA audit activity.
- g) Good progress has been made in preparing for the transfer of Safeguarding Commissions to Diocesan Trustee sub-committees. The sub-committees would continue to include members from external professional agencies. A route map was being prepared to allow each Commission to prepare a risk register and simple workplan for handover within the next quarter meeting cycle. Training for safeguarding governance would be provided by the Catholic Insurance Service. The move from Commission to sub-committee was also in line with Charity Commission feedback.
- h) A document was being prepared to support governance of a Catholic charity. It would also look at the theology behind safeguarding. All trustees needed to understand and review the risks within their charity and the draft for this document had received positive feedback.
- i) At the end of this section of the meeting MS and ROD thanked CLa and CL for the huge amount of work they had contributed to moving the Implementation Project forward at such a pace, while maintaining confidence and assuring quality of the project.

## 7. Survivor Advisory Panel

- a) EM confirmed that questions that the SAP had regarding the Implementation Project have been answered in the summary of the work provided at paragraph 6 above. CLa confirmed that Fr David Smolira would be contacting the SAP for some support in accessing victim and survivor input as regards the Religious Life Groups resource.
- b) EM and ROD had previously prepared a paper outlining the options available for SAP engagement with the NCSC based on the recommendations of the Hollins Report and discussions within the NCSC and SAP. This work should be shared with the CSSA. **Action 4:** EM, DW and ROD would conduct an initial review of this document and circulate the draft to SAP for any further input, with a view to producing a paper offering insight and suggestions as to how the SAP see the Hollins Report recommendations in the context of the new structure of the CSSA.
- c) CLa would like the SAP to consider what would be the key pieces of work that they would like to bring forward into the CSSA and what they would like to consider in the

next 12 months. This would be a valuable document for consideration by the new CSSA Board and could inform the future workplan of the SAP.

- d) **Training Learning Outcomes:** EM outlined the work to date with the SAP around training learning outcomes relating to the survivor victim perspective as outlined in the Elliott and IICSA reports and their contribution into this dialogue. More contribution had been received from the SAP members since the meeting. **Action 5:** This work was based on the Elliott Report recommendations and needed to now be completed, condensed and translated into the training terminology before being passed to the CSSA, to inform the new national training framework and SAP's ongoing involvement in training as recommended by the Hollins Review and IICSA
- e) **Future plans for the SAP:** as outlined above 6 c, d, e and f.

8. **CSAS Update**

CL confirmed that day to day work, including advice and training, was ongoing, but that a large part of the work of CSAS was now focused on implementation of the Elliott recommendations and the transition to the CSSA.

9. **NCSC Annual Report 2019**

CL confirmed that the report had been finalised and circulated in the last two weeks. The report had drawn some media attention, with reports in the Tablet and Telegraph. EM stated that she considered the report to be very well presented with clear data and thanked those involved in the preparation. It was noted that the report had been finalised prior to the death of Chris Pearson.

10. **NCSC Annual Report 2020**

Members agreed that the final NCSC Annual Report should celebrate the NCSC's achievements and confirm the confident move into the new CSSA structure. The opportunity should be taken to bring together various strands of NCSC work, including Safe Spaces, the Elliott Review, the Hollins Review, the IICSA report and positive developments in Commission audit. In contrast to previous reports, this report should not center on any one theme. **Action 6:** CSAS would prepare the data for the report, which should be available in the early summer. The narrative would be prepared by ROD and DM would be invited to contribute on behalf of the SAP. The final report would be signed off by the Vice-Chairs and should be ready by the beginning of July.

11. **Any other business**

There were no matters of Any Other Business.

**Conclusion:**

ROD thanked all Members for their time and commitment to the work of the NCSC and highlighted the value that Chris Pearson had placed in the collaboration that had developed in safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. She praised the work that Chris had undertaken in his role as Chair of the NCSC, and expressed sadness that he would not be able to see through the transition from the NCSC and CSAS to the new CSSA. ROD thanked particularly CL for her commitment through CSAS and AG for her exemplary background administrative support to the NCSC.

CLa also expressed her thanks on behalf of the new CSSA for the good work of the NCSC, which provided the necessary foundation for the CSSA.

Post meeting note: minutes of this meeting were accepted electronically by Members

### **List of Action Points Part 1:** *(post meeting notes in red)*

**Actions 1 and 2:** AG will provide CLa with individual contact details to the SAP and CLa, DM and EM will consider possible dates for an earlier SAP meeting. *(Completed)*

**Action 3:** CL and EM CL and EM would consider how the SAP audit tool could be incorporated into the CSSA audit activity. *(Actioned – moved to CSSA)*

**Action 4:** EM, DW and ROD would conduct an initial review of the document Hollins Report Moving Forward, with a view to producing a paper offering insight and suggestions as to how the SAP see the Hollins Report recommendations in the context of the new structure of the CSSA. *(Moved to CSSA).*

**Action 5:** This work was based on the Elliott Report recommendations and needed to now be completed, condensed and translated into the training terminology before being passed to the CSSA, to inform the new national training framework and SAP's ongoing involvement in training as recommended by the Hollins Review and IICSA. *(In progress, action for EM and SAP for delivery to CSSA by mid-May.)*

**Action 6:** CSAS to prepare the data for the 2020 Annual Report (by early summer). ROD to prepare the narrative, with the SAP contribution being prepared by DM. The final report would be signed off by the Vice-Chairs (by the beginning of July). *(In progress.)*