

Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy

Baseline Audit Report
April 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 This report is a baseline audit of the safeguarding arrangements for the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, also known as The Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy¹. It is undertaken as part of the CSSA programme of baseline audits for Religious Life Groups (RLGs) in England and Wales.

1.2 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are a Nigerian-based semi-contemplative Order whose UK and Ireland Region has 40 Sisters who reside in England and five Sisters who reside in Ireland with no communities in Wales. The communities in England are located in Liverpool, Leeds, Slough, Edgware, London and there are two communities in Walthamstow. Three of the 40 Sisters in England are retired and reside in different communities and support themselves independently. The remaining members are employed in professions such as nurses for the NHS, Social Workers, Care Workers or within the education sector together with some limited parish-based pastoral ministry. In the diocese of Liverpool, where up until September 2024 the Sisters were employed in a care home, members now assist in the parish ministries including Eucharistic Ministry and Catechism. The group employ no staff and do not engage any volunteers.

1.3 This audit will cover safeguarding activity undertaken by the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy in the last 12 months. The group owned and ran Waverly Care Home in Liverpool for 17 years prior to its closure in September 2024. As a CQC registered provision the home would not have fallen into the scope of this audit even had it remained open. The group still own the premises which is currently empty, and they intend to lease it in due course.

1.4 This audit will cover solely the activities, governance and operations of the Sisters residing in communities in England within the UK and Ireland region of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy and will not extend to incorporate the Sisters in Ireland.

¹ The group's charity name is *The Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy in the British Isles* and their charity number is 1036524

1.5 In instances where members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are undertaking ministry within the parish they reside, safeguarding practice falls under the responsibility of the respective diocese and so will not come into the remit of this report. Similarly, this audit does not scrutinise the safeguarding practices of the host organisations and agencies in which the Sisters are employed.

1.6 The CSSA has devised a categorisation scheme for Religious Life Groups taking part in safeguarding audits. This categorises groups on a scale of *Level 1*, *Level 2* and *Level 3*. Level 1 is classed as a small community with minimal outreach and no known safeguarding concerns. Level 1 is itself divided into two categories: *Enclosed* (for Enclosed Orders) and *Apostolic* (for non-Enclosed Orders). Level 2 is for Orders of medium sized communities with some outreach with vulnerable populations and/or providing some diocesan activities such as a Parish Priest. Level 3 audits cover larger communities and/or one with significant outreach with vulnerable populations and/or a disproportionately high number of open safeguarding cases. The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy have been assigned to a Level 2 audit.

1.7 The CSSA recognises the rich diversity of the Religious, and acknowledges that the Religious Life Groups within any particular category may vary significantly in terms of size, ministry and safeguarding practice. Consequently, CSSA Analysts may use professional judgement to ensure that Religious Life Groups are graded against the national standards in such a way that reflects their uniqueness.

2. Methodology

2.1 The Regional Councillor, who is also the Safeguarding Lead for the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, was initially contacted by the CSSA Analyst via e-mail on 10 June 2025 to notify them of the intention to complete a safeguarding audit and the relevant Level 2 audit guidance documents were shared. Over further telephone calls on the 18 June, 19 June, 7 August and the 2 September the audit was discussed and a date for the in-person visit was arranged. The CSSA Analyst completed the in-person visit to the community at Brettenham Avenue in Walthamstow on the 4 September 2025 where they met with and interviewed the

Regional Councillor who is also a Trustee. No other members were put forward for interview and a request to interview a group of Sisters from another community was made but declined, as such this report cannot comment on members' understanding of safeguarding expectations.

2.2 A requirement of the Level 2 audit process is for RLGs to provide a self-assessment, which is an assessment tool providing background information on the group's adherence to the eight National Safeguarding Standards², ahead of the audit. However, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy did not provide a self-assessment or any accompanying evidence to illustrate progress towards meeting the eight National Safeguarding Standards before or after the audit.

2.3 Sources of information considered in the preparation of this report include the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy website³, e-mail liaison with the RLSS and the Charity Commission website pages for the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy⁴. The evidence gleaned during the in-person visit has been assessed against the Level 2 Maturity Matrix and ratings for each standard have been assigned (see Section 3 Audit Grading), together with a combined overall grade. All the evidence considered has been included in the Appendices section.

2.4 No case audit work has been undertaken during the course of this audit as there have been no safeguarding allegations or concerns reported involving the Daughters of Mary Mothers of Mercy within the last 12 months and hence there are no current case files to pass comment on.

3. Audit grading

3.1 Safeguarding practice is graded in accordance with the CSSA Maturity Matrix for Level 2 Religious Life Groups. Each standard is graded on an ascending six point

² A description and full details of the standards can be found on the CSSA website [here](#)

³ www.dmmmsisters.org

⁴ The Charity Commission website page can be accessed [here](#)

scale of *Basic, Early Progress, Firm Progress, Results Being Achieved, Comprehensive Assurance* and *Exemplary*. Grades for individual standards are combined in order to produce an overall grading for the Religious Life Group as an outcome of the audit.⁵ The audit draws on the evidence as listed in the Appendix.

3.2 This report summarises the findings of the audit undertaken of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy and their progress towards meeting the eight National safeguarding standards; the grading for each of which is tabulated below.

Overall grading	Basic
Standard 1 – Safeguarding is embedded in the Church body’s leadership, governance, ministry and culture	Basic
Standard 2 – Communicating the Church’s safeguarding message	Basic
Standard 3 – Engaging with and caring for those who report having been harmed	Early Progress
Standard 4 – Effective management of allegations and concerns	Basic
Standard 5 – Management and support of subjects of allegations and concerns (respondents)	Basic
Standard 6 – Robust human resource management	Basic

⁵ Full information on supporting documentation in respect of the audit methodology is available here: [Quality Assurance Framework for Religious Life Groups](#)

Standard 7 – Training and support for safeguarding	Basic
Standard 8 – Quality assurance and continuous improvement	Basic

4. Audit findings against each standard

4.1 Standard 1 Safeguarding is embedded in the Church body's leadership, governance, ministry and culture

Strengths

4.1.1 All Trustees of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are Religious members and there are no lay Trustees on the board. Trustee meetings are held a minimum of three times per year, but exceptional meetings would occur if an urgent matter arose in between meetings. The Regional Councillor advised that if the Trustees were notified of a serious safeguarding incident that they would advise the police and escalate the matter by informing their Mother General. The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy also have their own solicitor who could be consulted in the event of a serious safeguarding incident.

4.1.2 Each community in England has a Superior who reports to the Regional Councillor. The Mother General for the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy visits all communities once per year from Nigeria. The Regional Superior resides in Germany but there is no specified schedule or requirement for visits.

4.1.3 On-line meetings with the Regional Superiors are held every quarter which the Regional Councillor attends and once per year this meeting is in-person in Rome. Although safeguarding is not a standing agenda item within these meetings there is the opportunity to share information with those present and have any issues escalated to the Mother General if required.

4.1.4 Each community in England has a weekly community meeting on a Sunday following spiritual readings and two to three times per year the whole group of communities in England and Ireland meet in person. In addition to this there are twice yearly virtual meetings for the entire group. Members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are also connected via a chat group using the social media application WhatsApp. The Regional Councillor states that this is a useful platform for individuals to raise concerns and ask questions of their fellow members, although the CSSA Analyst saw no evidence that these were used for safeguarding purposes.

4.1.5 The group follow their constitutional rules. The Regional Councillor states that the majority of the Sisters are currently working in care settings and as such, through their employment have a sound understanding of safeguarding. However, the CSSA Analyst was unable to meet with any other members in order to verify this during the audit.

4.1.6 The Regional Councillor is also the appointed Safeguarding Lead for the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy. However, the CSSA Analyst saw no evidence that a role description has been created for this position. It was nevertheless clear that her experience of working as a Social Worker means she has a good base of knowledge in safeguarding.

4.1.7 The RLSS⁶ have confirmed that the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are not members of the service and the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy confirmed that they have no alternative means of external safeguarding support.

Areas for development

4.1.8 The CSSA Quality Assurance Analyst saw no evidence that safeguarding is a standing agenda item in Trustee meetings or that safeguarding as a topic is raised frequently. Although the Regional Councillor advised that safeguarding would be discussed at the meetings if there was a concern, it is a requirement of the Charity

⁶ RLSS are an independent team of Safeguarding professionals offering Safeguarding services to the Religious of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Commission that safeguarding is overseen by the Trustees of every charity and therefore included as a standing agenda item in meetings. The Regional Councillor recognised the need for Trustees to be informed of allegations of abuse; however, there was no evidence of a formalised mechanism for recognising when the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy should self-refer to the Charity Commission and what process should be followed in doing so.

4.1.9 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy do not have a Safeguarding Policy but the Regional Councillor states that the group have adopted the policies of Brentwood Diocese and adhere to these. However, there is no safeguarding statement or statement of intent to follow the safeguarding policies of the Diocese, which have not been adapted to reflect the Religious Life context. The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy should agree their own safeguarding policy which is approved and reviewed by the Trustees and should have a statement of intent in the interim. E-mail liaison with Brentwood Diocese Safeguarding team confirms that they have not received any recent contact with the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy.

4.1.10 During the in-person visit the Regional Councillor advised that they were not aware of *Integrity in Ministry*⁷. As this is a requirement of the National Safeguarding Standards, this document should be shared with each community of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy and assurances sought that all members have read and understood the contents. The document should also be revisited periodically to ensure continued understanding remains within the group.

4.1.11 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy do not have a Safeguarding Action Plan. This is an expectation of the National Safeguarding Standards and the means by which safeguarding activity is agreed, planned and reviewed. This plan should be reviewed by Trustees to provide direction and drive safeguarding improvements within the group.

⁷ *Integrity in Ministry* is a code of conduct for Religious engaged in ministry in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It has been written for the guidance of those in ministry and for the information of those people with and among whom Religious exercise their ministry. A copy can be located [here](#)

4.1.12 It is acknowledged that the work and ministry undertaken by the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy is for host organisations and hence in that regard the host organisations are responsible for the safe environment. However, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy should still ensure that they create a safe environment in their interactions with the public outside of these host organisations and assess how they can keep themselves safe.

4.1.13 During the course of the audit the CSSA Analyst saw no evidence that any of the Trustees of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy have received training specific to their roles on the board of Trustees. Receiving such training would enable them to develop a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities as Trustees and how to offer greater oversight of safeguarding.

Graded: Basic

4.2 Standard 2 Communicating the Church's safeguarding message

Strengths

4.2.1 The properties in which members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy reside are private residences and hence there are no public areas in which to display posters or other safeguarding materials.

4.2.2 The fact that all working members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are employed in the education and care sectors in professional positions suggests some links to other organisations aimed at improving the health and welfare of others. The CSSA Analyst saw no evidence that the group has any organisational links to support safeguarding practice though.

Areas for development

4.2.3 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy do not have a safeguarding communications plan to establish what safeguarding messages will be relayed, to whom and by what method. Given the size of the group and the employment its

members undertake it would be appropriate to incorporate this into a wider safeguarding action plan.

4.2.4 Given the areas of work that members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are employed in it is likely that safeguarding information relevant to this context will be provided to them. However, this will not cover their role as a member of an RLG. Equally, a smaller number of members are not in employment and therefore receive no safeguarding input.

Graded: Basic

4.3 Standard 3 Engaging with and caring for those who report having been harmed

Strengths

4.3.1 As there is no previous or current experience of handling allegations of abuse the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy have a limited opportunity to evidence working practices in standards 3, 4 and 5. In addition, the nature of the employment undertaken by members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy means that any disclosures received during the course of work activity will be handled by employers. However, during interview the Regional Councillor was able to give examples of her own professional work experiences in dealing with safeguarding matters and concerns and how she would transfer these skills to dealing with disclosures from members of the public or her fellow members. The Regional Councillor states that beyond their work with vulnerable groups within their employment there is little exposure to others outside of their communities and therefore the risk of abuse to and from others is low. Nevertheless, she remains aware of the need to be alert in identifying possible signs of abuse from outside or within the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, no matter how negligible the risk may be.

4.3.2 The Regional Councillor demonstrated empathy and the need for respect and dignity when engaging with those who report being harmed and it was clear that

the training received during the course of her professional employment has been well received and understood. Unfortunately, despite requesting a meeting with other members of the group this was not facilitated and so the CSSA Analyst was unable to verify if all Sisters possess a similar standard of knowledge.

Areas for development

4.3.3 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy should develop a formal process for supporting those who report being harmed both within, and external to, their group and for those receiving disclosures. Leaders should share the plan for support with its members.

4.3.4 Safe Spaces⁸ should be included and promoted as an avenue for support for anyone disclosing church-related abuse.

4.3.5 The Regional Councillor has expressed a desire to assist and enable members to identify and respond to abuse in the future. In the absence of their own experiences to reflect on, and in order to support them with this, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy should explore how they can learn from other RLGs with lived experience of responding to, and supporting, complainants of abuse.

Graded: Early Progress

4.4 Standard 4 Effective management of allegations and concerns

Strengths

4.4.1 The Regional Councillor reported that any serious safeguarding allegations or concerns would be reported to the Trustees and that, if required, the Trustees would refer the incident to the Charity Commission. They were able to outline the importance of accurate and prompt record keeping of any allegations or concerns

⁸ Safe Spaces is a free and confidential support service funded by the Catholic Church for victims and survivors of abuse. Their website can be accessed [here](#)

raised. Although no safeguarding allegations have ever been raised, the group do have the facility to record any future concerns via hard copies that would be stored in a lockable personal filing cabinet.

4.4.2 The Regional Councillor has a good understanding of how to respond to allegations of abuse and when and how to refer concerns to statutory agencies. To this end she was able to give some examples of her own employment when she has worked with other statutory agencies and in what circumstances she may need to do so in future. As the CSSA Analyst was not able to meet with any other members they were not able to determine whether this level of understanding was prevalent amongst Sisters.

Areas for development

4.4.3 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are not members of the RLSS or any other safeguarding service. During the in-person interview the Regional Councillor advised that if circumstances arose which necessitated responding to and investigating an allegation, she would approach the Diocese of Brentwood's Safeguarding team or their Parish Priest for assistance. However, this is not the responsibility of the Diocese and they cannot, therefore, be expected to take on this role. In addition, there is no assurance that a Parish Priest would be suitably trained to assist in these circumstances. Therefore, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy should make arrangements in the event of a member of their group being accused of abuse so that specialised support can be provided.

4.4.4 The majority of contact with vulnerable groups and activity undertaken by the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy is done so under the auspices of their employers or parishes and so their responses to any allegations would be governed through those channels. However, outside of employment and parish ministry there is no policy or document to outline the expected safeguarding practice and procedures for the group.

Graded: Basic

4.5 Standard 5 Management and support of subjects of allegations and concerns (respondents)

Strengths

4.5.1 The Regional Councillor states that should she or another member of the group receive a disclosure, or be the subject of an allegation of abuse, they could seek support from other Sisters and their House Superiors. Some members are trained in counselling through their professional employment and so would be able to offer more structured support if the need arose. According to the Regional Councillor funds would also be available to assist an accused member in travelling to Rome for more specialised support and intervention if required. Regarding legal support the Regional Councillor advises that any accused member could receive civil-law advice from the group's private solicitor or other lawyer with their financial assistance and that they could access a canon lawyer on their behalf.

4.5.2 In the event of a member being accused of abuse the Regional Councillor asserts that the ability to accommodate Sisters in alternative communities in England and abroad exists. However, the need to manage such a move carefully was also acknowledged.

Areas for development

4.5.3 As covered in paragraph 4.4.3 above, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are not members of the RLSS or other similar safeguarding support service and hence do not have ready access to suitably trained accredited personnel to conduct risk assessments which could inform the implementation of a safeguarding plan. Without this it will prove challenging to facilitate the safe management of individuals subject to an allegation and enable effective reviews to take place.

4.5.4 A support person should be designated with responsibility for assessing and supporting the needs of any member accused of abuse and offering appropriate pastoral support.

Graded: Basic

4.6 Standard 6 Robust human resource management

Strengths

4.6.1 The Regional Councillor advises that any grievance or allegations of bullying between members should be raised with her in the first instance and this can be escalated as appropriate. The Mother General visits all communities once per year and all Sisters have the chance to speak with her individually if required but she is also contactable between in-person visits if needed. Therefore, the Regional Councillor states there is the opportunity to report concerns in person as well as via e-mail or telephone call should a Sister need to do so.

4.6.2 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy have a room allocated in communities for visitors from overseas. However, these visitors come on holiday and do not undertake any ministry when in the country. Therefore, no DBS check or safeguarding training is required of them prior to their arrival.

4.6.3 Prior to any new members joining the Order from overseas, the Mother General and her Council gather and assess information including a Testimonial of Suitability, overseas criminal record check and references. The Regional Councillor completes a Certificate of Sponsorship under the category of Minister of Religion and completes a cultural induction over the course of the month or longer in which the person stays with the group.

4.6.4 Although the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy do join pilgrimages to places such as Lourdes, Walsingham and Jerusalem, they do so solely as part of their respective parishes. Therefore, the parish is responsible for the verification and arrangement of DBS checks relevant to the level of activity undertaken by Sisters whilst on pilgrimage.

Areas for development

4.6.5 As previously noted, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy have no employees or volunteers so safer recruitment processes are only required for members. There are no policies in which these are established. Furthermore, no central record is maintained of DBS certificates and their anticipated renewal dates

for its members. Whilst it may be the case that employment within the areas in which the members work would not be possible without a valid DBS check, leaders should be aware of DBS certificate levels and renewal dates in order to provide assurance to Trustees. Additionally, the process for assessing adverse information which results in a blemished DBS return or overseas criminal record checks should be established.

4.6.6 Although the process for reporting grievances regarding other members or complaints about the Regional Councillor was explained verbally by the Regional Councillor, a written policy for this should be available for all members and assurances that they have received and understood the content should be available. A safeguarding complaints policy and a whistleblowing policy should be agreed and made available to anyone who may need them.

4.6.7 At present there is no safeguarding element to the induction process for new members arriving from overseas. This should be incorporated into the induction programme so that new members are aware of reporting obligations and expectations for responding to abuse. This is particularly pertinent given the reported cultural emphasis of the induction that is provided to new members, their future employer cannot be solely relied upon to provide safeguarding awareness.

Graded: Basic

4.7 Standard 7 Training and support for safeguarding

Strengths

4.7.1 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are not members of the RLSS and so cannot make use of the training provision offered through that service. The Regional Councillor asserts that all members of the group who are employed receive safeguarding training through their host organisations. However, there is no assurance sought of this. Due to the nature of the core work undertaken by the group members in agencies and organisations providing social care, the education sector and the NHS, the standard of training is likely to be of an appropriate standard, however it will not cover the unique circumstances of an RLG.

4.7.2 According to the Regional Councillor, when any safeguarding updates from the Diocese of Brentwood are received, these are disseminated to each of the communities within the diocese. This is also the case for the communities in Leeds and Liverpool when the Superiors from those communities receive safeguarding information from their respective dioceses. The Regional Councillor states they always encourage members to complete as much training as they can through their employment and through their parishes and that any costs incurred will be covered by the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy.

Areas for Development

4.7.3 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy should establish their expectations in regard to training within the Church context. A central record of completions and due dates should be created and maintained. Leaders and Trustees should have oversight of training compliance to assure themselves of training completions and safeguarding awareness and a method of challenging any shortfalls should be agreed.

4.7.4 During the course of the audit the CSSA Quality Assurance Analyst saw no evidence that the Trustees had undertaken any role-specific training. Completion of Trustee training would enhance the understanding of what is expected of Trustees as members of the board.

Graded: Basic

4.8 Standard 8 Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement

Strengths

4.8.1 During interview the Regional Councillor indicated that the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy will welcome any feedback as a result of this audit and are prepared to use it as a means of review and reflection on the group's current safeguarding practices.

Areas for Development

4.8.2 At present the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy have no process with which to evaluate their compliance with the safeguarding standards. As referred to in paragraph 4.1.9 the group also have no Safeguarding Action Plan to drive their safeguarding processes.

Graded: Basic

5. Summary of overall findings

5.1 The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy have no safeguarding policy or other publicly available statement to outline the group's plans for handling disclosures, making safeguarding complaints or supporting victims of abuse.

5.2 Trustees for the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy meet sufficiently frequently as a group. The Safeguarding Lead is also a Trustee and is considered to have suitable safeguarding experience for the role.

5.3 As well as having no statement of minimum safeguarding training expectations for its members, there is no central record to detail safeguarding training completions nor one for DBS checks and their renewal dates. At present there is no mechanism for leaders and Trustees of the group to be assured that sufficient levels of training and vetting have taken place.

5.4 It is acknowledged that the risk of abuse to and from members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy is reduced by their active ministry all being undertaken under the auspices of other organisations. Although safeguarding measures need to be in place with the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, these should be proportionate to the risk posed by, and to, its members but should also align with the expectations of the Charity Commission and the Church's eight National Safeguarding Standards.

6. Recommendations

To support improvement, the following recommendations are made:

Within 3 months

- Include safeguarding as a standing agenda item in Trustee meetings.
- Develop a Safeguarding Policy which is approved by the Trustees and is reviewed on a regular basis thereafter.
- *Integrity in Ministry* should be shared with each community and assurances sought that all members have read and understood the contents.
- Have in place preparations for specialised support through a service such as the RLSS in the event a member of their group is accused of abuse to assist with tasks such as risk assessments and safeguarding plans.
- Develop a Safeguarding Action Plan which sets out the group's safeguarding goals, actions to be taken to achieve these, person/people responsible for undertaking the actions and the resources required. The Action Plan should incorporate a Communications Plan which outlines what safeguarding messages it will relay, to whom, and by what method.
- A safeguarding complaints policy, safer recruitment policy and a whistleblowing policy should be approved by Trustees and made available to anyone who needs them (or included within the Safeguarding Policy).
- A safeguarding element should be incorporated into the induction programme for new members.

Within 6 months

- Agree a formal process for recognising and reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission.
- Safeguarding training expectations should be set out and a central record of training completions and refresher dates created and maintained. Leaders and Trustees should have oversight of training compliance to

assure themselves of training completions and safeguarding awareness and a method of challenging any shortfalls should be recorded.

- Sisters who have not already done so should complete Church-based safeguarding training.
- Designate a support person with responsibility for assessing and supporting the needs of any member accused of abuse and offering appropriate pastoral support.
- Create and maintain a central record of DBS certificates and anticipated renewal dates for its members which is overseen by Trustees.
- Develop and record a process for assessing adverse information which results in a blemished DBS return or overseas criminal record checks.
- Develop a process with which to evaluate compliance with the safeguarding standards.

Within 12 months

- Trustees should receive training specific to their roles on the board of Trustees.
- Explore networking opportunities with other RLGs to learn from their experience of responding to, and supporting, complainants of abuse.

7. Arrangements for follow-up

7.1 In line with the overall rating of Basic, the earliest date for the next safeguarding audit of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy by the CSSA will be in one years' time. However, this period may be reduced if the CSSA becomes aware of any significant concerns or allegations indicative of a weakening of safeguarding arrangements that are raised in the meantime.