

Report to: Synod	Date: 14 th March 2020	Green Paper D
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Annual Report from the Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP)

1) Purpose:

This report by the Independent Chair of the Panel advises the Council of the activities & priorities of the Panel between January 2019 & January 2020, & going forward.

2) Recommendations:

2.1) The Council is asked to note this report

3) Background:

3.1) A Panel is required of each diocese. Its task is to oversee, advise & if necessary challenge the sufficiency of safeguarding in the Diocese. It is a principle point of reference for the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) & for clergy & lay leadership of safeguarding in the Diocese. It must be independently chaired. The Carlisle DSAP also oversees the role of the DSA in supporting safeguarding in the Cathedral.

3.2) The current chair of the Panel is Sarah Crouchley, formerly Head of Policy & Support at the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (now Thirtyone:eight).

4) Analysis: Activities in 2019

4.1) Positives for 2019 included the development & oversight of a Safeguarding Development Plan. This built on the Action Plan published following the SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) 2016 audit of diocesan safeguarding arrangements.

4.2) It is regrettable that SCIE was unable to provide a final version of its SCIE audit of Carlisle Cathedral less than a year after its November 2018 visit. This has now however been received & is positive.

4.3) The DSAP case sub group has met to review all current Safeguarding Agreements & risk assessments & will undertake some file audit of DSA records in 2020. The Chair & Lead Bishop are both involved in the Reference Group overseeing the Past Cases Review in 2020.

4.4) It has been disappointing however that the apologies received for meetings in October & January meant that these meetings could not go ahead. This leaves the diocese vulnerable in that it cannot show effective independent scrutiny of its safeguarding arrangements.

5) Analysis: Challenges for 2020

5.1) 2020 has opened with another raft of proposed policy initiatives from the Church centrally. This reflects a restructuring of the National Safeguarding Team to strengthen, in particular, leadership & QA. A number of new staff have held senior positions in local authority social work & the approach is recognisably that of people who have managed large & complex organisations, but with perhaps less appreciation that most of the people who will have to deliver this are clergy or volunteers & have no experience of safeguarding.

5.2) In the background is the awareness that the final IICSA reports into both the principle denominations are due this year. Part of the strategy from the NST is therefore to head off possible externalisation of safeguarding. It is a moot point however, given the self-inflicted damage by both denominations underlined in the 2019 hearings, whether this can succeed.

5.3) The preparation stage for the Past Cases Review 2 is now underway & the required letters to incumbents & churchwardens have gone out. The Reference Group to oversee the review (including a survivor rep.) is in place. The DSA is looking at potential auditors, & audit should commence in late May.

5.4) The Bishop's Leadership Team & DSAP had noted that it is not now acceptable for parishes to be unable to list their volunteers, evidence safer recruitment of those listed & record their training needs. The first parish audit was therefore sent out in October. The DSA will work with those parishes (& their Archdeacons) who have not yet returned these.

5.5) Following the departure of the Safeguarding trainer Kaley Vaughton, I have agreed to undertake leadership training for the diocese. So as to retain some independent oversight of training, I am proposing that the Panel consider a small training sub group is set up to meet in the summer & late autumn to review our training. This will be chaired by another independent member of the Panel.

5.6) Before Christmas dioceses also received a substantial proposal to restructure the complex web of policy & guidance agreed piecemeal by the House of Bishops over the last five years. Whilst the commitment to simplify guidance is welcome, the proposal still leaves the Church with a safeguarding policy framework that might continue to grow & grow as it seeks to legislate in detail for all eventualities. This will therefore remain a challenge.

Sarah Crouchley

Independent Chair

February 2020