

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING SUMMIT 2017

Promoting
a safer church

11th – 13th September 2017

SUMMIT REPORT

Report prepared by Graham Tilby, National Safeguarding Adviser on behalf of the

National Safeguarding Team

INTRODUCTION

From 11th to 13th September 2017, 83 people met at the University of York at our National Safeguarding Summit, organised and attended by the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team, together with 16 presenters and workshop facilitators. The event was primarily aimed at safeguarding advisers from dioceses, cathedrals and other Church bodies such as religious communities as well as independent chairs of diocesan safeguarding panels.

The Summit provided an important opportunity for safeguarding advisers from across the Church to interact with each other and with members of the National Safeguarding Team.

PURPOSE OF THE SUMMIT

The main purpose of the summit was to provide a developmental opportunity for safeguarding advisers and independent chairs across the Church of England. The focus was to learn from critical incidents and case reviews both relating to the church and external organisations and to develop the knowledge and skills of safeguarding advisers and chairs in respect of a range of safeguarding issues relating to children and vulnerable adults.

"The event was pretty much spot on, with a challenging programme but space to network and reflect."
A Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

EVALUATION

Summit delegates were asked to complete a survey following the conference and responded in the following ways to the questions posed:

With 10 points being the most positive, how did you rate the Summit in supporting you in your role to improve safeguarding within your setting?

The average level of satisfaction was 8.4.

KEY ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES

What specifically will you do as a result of the Summit in your role to improve safeguarding within your setting?

Individual delegates were asked in what ways they would apply the learning from the Summit to improve safeguarding within the settings that they worked. Some examples of the responses are distributed throughout the report.

The report concludes with a number of actions for further consideration by the National Safeguarding Team.

Day One: MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

Delegates to the Summit were welcomed by Bishop Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath & Wells and the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Safeguarding and Graham Tilby, the National Safeguarding Adviser. The afternoon session was then led by colleagues from Lincolnshire Police, the dioceses of Lincoln and Chichester and the independent chair of Lincoln's Diocesan Safeguarding Panel. The session, entitled, 'Are You Ready?' focused on learning.

'I will return to my diocese with the intention of developing a plan for critical incidents with the senior clergy'
A Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

"a safeguarding incident that has the potential to undermine public confidence in the church; and which requires a level of resource to respond to beyond normal casework and beyond management via normal core group working."

The session also provided an opportunity to consider the impact of trauma on victims of abuse and the potential for individuals and organisations responding to abuse to become traumatised.

KEY MESSAGES

The session highlighted the importance of being prepared for a critical incident by:

- Building collaborative, mature and personal relationships with statutory partners such as the police supporting by effective information-sharing and communication
- Identifying the key people within your diocese or other setting who will manage a critical incident if it arises and who are able to secure additional resources as and when required
- Maintaining a central focus on the alleged victims and their support needs at all times during the investigations engaging specialist help where needed

"I will invest additional time and energy in relationship-building with key senior external stakeholders and explore models adopted by other dioceses to develop self-audit and review of safeguarding."

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

During the evening, Dr Craig Harper from Nottingham Trent University led a seminar on research related to the reporting of sexual abuse within religious settings. The seminar entitled 'Using Human Psychology to Improve Sexual Offence Reporting' considered the context of resistance to reporting child sexual abuse in religious settings, exploring a range of theories to help us understand recognition and reporting of abuse. Dr Harper will be conducting research within the Church of England – for more information contact @CraigHarper19

Day Two: TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

Day Two began with reflections from Bishop Mark Sowerby, Bishop of Horsham and Heather Reid, Deputy National Safeguarding Adviser.

The keynote speaker was Keith Stephens, Diocesan Secretary of the Anglican Diocese of Perth, and previously the Diocese of Adelaide, Australia. Keith gave a comprehensive presentation on his learning from the engagement of the Dioceses of Adelaide (and Perth) with the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The presentation also covered the history of investigations into allegations of and responses to child sexual abuse in the Diocese of Adelaide, with particular focus on the Board of Inquiry and the implementation of one of the first redress schemes (*Healing Steps*) in the Anglican Church of Australia for survivors of child sexual abuse. He described some of the impact of the Royal Commission on the Anglican Church of Australia and some of the initiatives arising from the Commission such as the Commonwealth Redress Scheme.

“Keith’s presentation helped me to reflect on what we need to better prepare for the Inquiry here and the importance of keeping a focus on the experience of survivors and our desire to improve our safeguarding responses to them.”

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Keith’s presentation was followed by a panel to allow delegates to explore some of the issues arising from both Keith’s input as well as the ‘Are You Ready?’ session on critical incident learning. They were joined on the panel by Heather Reid, Paula Jefferson and Bishop Mark.

Workshops

During the afternoon delegates were given the opportunity to attend two **workshops** facilitated by a range of individuals and organisations:

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse - Donald Findlater stressed that whilst the Church was very much still rightly focusing on establishing more consistent and robust responses to disclosures of abuse and support to victims and survivors, strategies aimed at preventing children from being sexually abused and for recognising early warning signs remain critical to the Church’s overall safeguarding arrangements. The workshop introduced the ‘comprehensive Prevention model’ for consideration by the Church focusing on offenders/potential offenders, victims/potential victims, communities/families and specific situations in which abuse has occurred in the context of a public health primary, secondary and tertiary prevention based on the work of Smallbone et al 2008.

“I am going to look at ways that I can further support parishes with prevention.” Training Officer

SCIE Survivor Research – this workshop provided Edi Carmi and Dr Sheila Fish from the Social Care Institute for Excellence with an important opportunity to hear from the experience of safeguarding advisers in informing their research on what good support to survivors of abuse, whether church-related or not, should look like. The research involves a rapid evidence review, victims/survivor survey

and in-depth direct contact with victims/survivors to elicit their experience and perspectives. Its purpose is to help the Church improved its responses and support to survivors.

“I will look at our Authorised Listeners requirements with regards to training.” Training Officer

Assessing and managing potential or known risk – Marcella Leonard provided delegates with an overview of effective assessment and risk management practice ahead of the specialist training being organised by the NST for Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers in 2018. The workshop included looking at different models of risk assessment and exploring the use of risk management plans.

Victim & Survivor-led (child centred) practice – Cerys Morgan a survivor of sexual abuse (supported by CCPAS) told her story of abuse as a young person and adult perpetrated by a church leader highlighting some of the lessons for those with responsibility for safeguarding.

Safeguarding Adults – delegates were provided with an overview of the Care Act 2014 and other relevant legislation such as the Mental Capacity Act 2005 by Hugh Constant from SCIE, supported by case summaries in the acknowledgment that the Church can and needs to play a vital role in safeguarding adults who are vulnerable to abuse and in need of care and protection. The workshop considered definitions of, and factors relating to, ‘vulnerability’ and engaged participants in discussions about what makes the church a safer place, or less safe place for those who may be vulnerable to abuse and what can dioceses do to promote safety.

“I intend to apply more focus on vulnerable adults’ care in awareness and training.”

A Diocesan Training Officer

Financial Abuse – Dr Mark Redmond (University of Gloucestershire) challenged delegates to consider how members of church congregations and communities need to be alert to indicators of financial abuse and the vulnerability of some people to this form of abuse. The workshop addressed the potential scale and types of financial abuse, including within families, by ‘scammers’ and some characteristics of an ‘unsafe’ and ‘safe’ church.’

Dealing with Trauma – Davy Hutton stressed the importance of understanding trauma experienced by victims and survivors of abuse, using his experiences and professional knowledge to help delegates identify the key indicators of post-traumatic stress and how best to respond to this. The importance of delegates understanding vicarious and secondary forms of trauma and the importance of caring for themselves in order to effectively safeguard others.

“I recognise the need to look after myself better in order to continue to be able to help others.”

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

“Thank you for a well-structured event that posed some key challenges, offered some helpful ideas and provided opportunities to build network of support”

Diocesan Independent Chair

Day Three: WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

Day three began with opportunities for delegates to join surgeries with NST members relating to the management of complex casework, training and development and the Church's engagement with IICSA.

Delegates then heard from two keynote speakers. Firstly, Dame Moira Gibb gave a brief overview of learning of key findings and recommendation from the Independent Peter Ball Review, *'An Abuse of Faith.'* Dame Moira challenged the Summit delegates to consider some of the themes arising from her report and how the House of Bishops and dioceses are the focal point for changing the culture of the Church.

Secondly, delegates were presented with key messages from serious case reviews and research by Marcus Erooga, focusing on how institutions such as the Church can become safer organisations. He used the typologies and characteristics and behaviours of sexual offenders who have abused within institutional settings such as Jimmy Savile and William Vahey to highlight how organisations can be places where 'predatory', 'opportunistic' and 'situational' offenders can be allowed to operate. His presentation concluded with ways in which organisations can create safer cultures and minimise risk.

"I will ensure learning amongst senior staff as spelt out by Dame Moira Gibb and embed the principles of forgiveness and reconciliation into the framework for training." Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

The Summit closed with some key reflections from Bishop Mark, Bishop Peter and Graham Tilby.

For the National Safeguarding Team, the Summit highlighted the following key actions:

- Developing national guidance and resources for critical incident management based on the work undertaken by the Diocese of Chichester and Diocese of Lincoln and using the skills and experience of other safeguarding professionals across the Church and considering training needs as a result of this;
- Commissioning the development of a Prevention Framework to assist the Church on focusing how we can prevent the abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults alongside strengthening its protective responses following abuse;
- Developing risk assessment and risk management skills of safeguarding advisers;
- Developing practice guidance for promoting the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and in particular strengthening how we respond to the financial abuse of harm vulnerable adults;
- Publishing the SCIE Research with regards to responses to survivors of abuse alongside the development of different ways to ensure that victims and survivors are supported well by the Church;
- Working with dioceses and other church bodies to strengthen support to safeguarding advisers, particularly those who may be experiencing work-related stress and trauma;
- Developing greater clarity as to how the NST can act as a 'critical friend' in supporting and challenging dioceses and other church bodies to continuously improve their safeguarding practice.