Catholic Safeguarding Project

1 February 2021
Issue 1

Delivering Change and Building Trust

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# Welcome

- From Carol Lawrence, Project Implementation Director

**Welcome to the first two-weekly update on the Implementation Project of the Elliott Review. This first edition of the two-weekly newsletter gives an overview of work undertaken since the Implementation Plan was adopted and work began in earnest on 12 January 2021.**

The work in the last two weeks has been around building on the mobilization work undertaken previously, instructing professional advisors and meeting with various stakeholder groups. The first firm steps of implementing the changes to safeguarding will take place in the next two weeks and on page two is the work plan. In the next edition we will report on progress against that workplan as well as on the work going forward. This will be benchmarked against the timeline of work published in the Implementation Plan.

A website has been created solely for the project, which will provide updates and resources which will be added as they are created. This gives an overview of the structures and will be populated with more information as the project develops. It can be found at www.catholicsafeguardingproject.org . As always, your feedback is welcomed and can either be given through the website or by emailing administrator@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

# Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency




## Workstream Progress

- Dr Colette Limbrick

**Over the coming months, the standards and processes of CSSA will be developed in workstreams. This builds on the approach of the Elliott Review, both in terms of the recommendations and way of working, and facilitates the participation of stakeholders drawn from across the Church. In the last two weeks the workstreams have met and made progress, with further work in the weeks ahead. The workstreams are**:

**Terms of Reference for Trustee Safeguarding Sub-Committees** A first version has been drafted of Terms of Reference, contextual information for Trustees and a route-map for transition and will be consulted on with relevant stakeholders.

**Standards** Two meetings have taken place and the original standards have been reviewed and some changes in terminology are proposed.

**Audit** The standards workstream, with members from the original audit workstream are meeting in February to develop an audit assessment framework against which compliance with the national standards will be measured.

**Parish resource audit tool** The group has met once to discuss the questions and methodology for finding about the resources at parish level and how these can best be supported. A questionnaire has been drafted for discussion at the next group meeting.

**National training framework** An initial exploratory and scoping meeting was held involving safeguarding coordinators from which a working group will be established. The initial focus of this workstream is to develop a national safeguarding related training framework for those in roles working directly with children and adults at risk, or who may be vulnerable and outside of the statutory definition of 'at risk'.

## Survivor Engagement

-Carol Lawrence

**I have been fortunate in the last two weeks to meet with survivors in small groups or on a one-to-one basis, as well as being able to take part in a meeting of the Survivor Advisory Panel.**

The discussions have been productive and helpful in shaping the Project and in particular how we engage with survivors as part of the ongoing work of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency.

It is both a pleasure and an honour to work with those who have been harmed by their engagement with the Church and I, along with all those involved in the Project, continue to be grateful for their generosity in sharing their wisdom.

## Recruitment of Directors

**The Board of Directors of CSSA will be important to building trust in the new structures for safeguarding.**

The Board will comprise a majority of lay members and is the level at which the independence of oversight of safeguarding will sit. Saxon Bamfylde will advise and support with the recruitment of directors, and the next two weeks will see this process begin.

# Religious Life Groups

- Fr David Smolira SJ

**I have been invited to write a few words in the newsletter to introduce myself as the newly appointed Religious Lead for Safeguarding Implementation. It's very early days yet for me to be saying anything very much about how the job is unfolding, except to say that it seems to be happening very quickly.**



The Religious of England and Wales are very keen to be involved in the process of implementation of the new standards-based safeguarding structures. Together we have to find a way to seek the views of over 300 religious congregations in England and Wales and to encourage buy-in. The Elliott Review has proposed a new model for safeguarding and both the Bishops of England and Wales and the Conference of Religious have accepted the recommendations of review including the new structure.

My job is to help to develop that part of the basic structure which is intended to assist religious in their safeguarding responsibilities. The timescale for implementation is very tight indeed and I am having to play catch-up a lot. Having met some of the others involved in the implementation process and somewhat got my bearings, I am now setting up monthly open meetings with as many as possible of the leaders of religious congregations to seek their views and to explain the proposed model in more detail. These meetings will be invaluable to me as we move forward with the task of implementation. I shall be contacting religious leaders with the dates for meetings in the very near future.

We face many challenges with this implementation process so I ask all of the Church in England and Wales to keep this project very much in their prayers.

# National Tribunal Service

- Dr Edward Morgan

**I am delighted to have been invited to participate in the implementation of the Elliott Review under the leadership of Carol Lawrence as Implementation Director.**



Although appointed last month, as a member of one of the specialist working groups that contributed to the Elliott Review, I have already commenced the drafting necessary to make the National Tribunal Service a reality.

It is intended that Rules of Procedure together with guidance material for stakeholders will play their part in affirming the Church's commitment to this important new development. Prior to embarking upon the Rules of Procedure, I completed a detailed survey of relevant professional regulatory bodies and the regimes adopted within other faith communities. My purpose in doing so was, where possible, to harvest the experiences of those regimes and optimise the contribution the National Tribunal Service will make to the new safeguarding structures through the communication and upholding of standards which are fit for purpose.

# Work plan for the weeks ahead

In the next two weeks the following will be delivered:



- Draft Terms of Reference for Trustee Sub-Committees, as well as a route map for the migration of the Safeguarding Commission
- The CSSA company will be incorporated and TUPE discussions will begin in earnest
- Project website will be launched at www.catholicsafeguardingproject.org
- Work has begun on the first draft of financial modelling, with reporting due in mid-February
- Saxon Bamfylde, recruitment specialists, will be retained for search and selection of directors of CSSA
- Open meeting to be oprganised for consultation with Religious Life Groups
- Work to continue on drafing the Rules of Procedure for the National Tribunal Service.

# And finally

## Oversight of project

**Good project management builds in good oversight. There is a Short Term Task Group, which meets fortnightly to review progress and give advice on the porject develops. From February this group will be combined with the Steering Group, which had continued on from the Elliott Review.**

This new Short Term Task Group is led by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, and includes Sr Ellen Flynn DC, Fr Martin Ganeri OP, Fr Damian Howard SJ, Bishop Paul Mason, Ms Lyn Murray, Fr John Poland, Bishop Marcus Stock, and Canon Christopher Thomas.

The Project Team of Carol Lawrence (Director), Dr Colette Limbrick, Dr Edward Morgan and Fr David Smolira SJ, will report to each meeting on prgress made and seek guidance where it is needed. Organising oversight in this way ensures that there is good representation from across the Church and that the Project moves in the way that was envisaged in the Elliott Review.

The first meeting of this combined group takes place within the next two weeks.

## Project prayer

Heavenly Father,

Guide our work for all your people,
to bring your healing love for young and old.
Inspire us with wisdom and justice,
to serve you with integrity and truth.
Enable us to be Christ-like in our wounded world,
to defend the powerless and safeguard the abused.
Embolden us with the fire of your Spirit,
to become the renewed church of tomorrow.

Amen.

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