



An update for Safeguarding Coordinators, Sub-Committee Chairs and others with a safeguarding role within the Catholic Church across England and Wales



Survivors leading change

Welcome. We hope you are thriving as summer approaches.

We have had another busy month at CSSA. The voices of victims and survivors of church-related abuse are always a central concern.

We have had significant input from survivors into our online learning modules. We are grateful for the generosity of those contributors, for all their insights.

Founding members of our Survivor Working Group are already making a difference. They will advise across all we do, shaping our work and helping us to get it right.

Says Wesley Cuell, CSSA Board Member: "Survivors help us drive change. We are grateful for their courage in our shared vision that no one again is harmed in the Catholic Church of England and Wales."

We would love to hear from any victim or survivor interested in supporting our work. We would like more members so we can extend our reach and our impact.

Thank you so much if you have already helped spread the word.

Are you audit ready?

Learning Together: Training Update

YOUR SURVIVOR VOICES
NEED TO BE HEARD

Save the Date: CSSA
Conference

IT'S YOUR VOICE
WE WANT TO HEAR

**IF YOU THINK A SURVIVOR MAY LIKE TO
CONNECT WITH US:**

THEY CAN EMAIL: CHAIR@CATHOLICSAFEGUARDING.ORG.UK /
COMMS@CATHOLICSAFEGUARDING.ORG.UK

APPROACHING US MAY BE A BIG STEP FOR MANY PEOPLE. WE
UNDERSTAND.

WE CAN CALL THEM BACK FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT IN
COMPLETE CONFIDENCE AND WITH NO OBLIGATIONS FOR ANY
INDIVIDUAL.



Safeguarding Coordinators, Safeguarding Sub-Committee Chairs, Trustees and others:

There are still a few places left on the online audit workshops. The team have created these walk-throughs so you know what to expect from your audit, and have a head-start on the process. It's an opportunity to ask questions from our expert team.

**Places are going fast. You can still book for:
Tuesday 31 May / Wednesday 1 June /
Tuesday 28 / Wednesday 29 June.**

Please note: Workshops for audit of Religious Life groups will follow later in the year.

Email:

qualityassurance@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

Are you audit-ready?

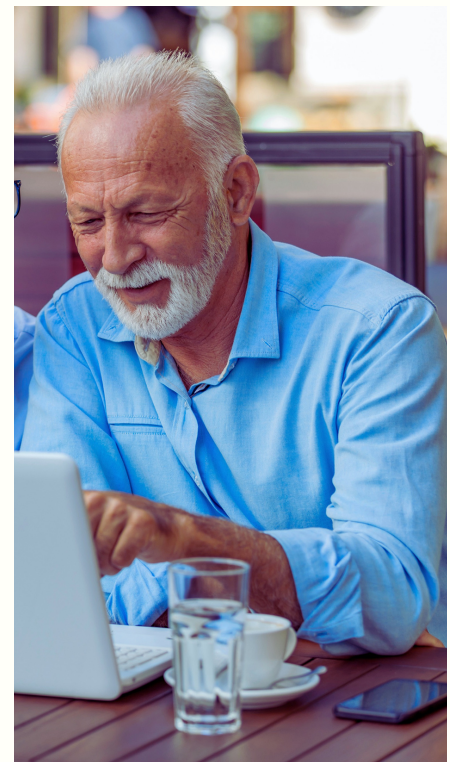
At CSSA we have been set up to support, but also, crucially, to regulate safeguarding practice. Auditing dioceses and other religious bodies is a fair and transparent way to evidence that everything possible is being done to keep people safe.

After months of intensive preparation on our side, we're pleased to say that the pilot audits have begun. Says Stephen from the Quality Assurance Team: "The first audit is running to plan, and it is great to be working closely with the first diocese in this way. Thank you to all Parish Safeguarding Reps who responded so fully to our recent survey. It made such a difference, and the content of responses has allowed us to tailor our support to your needs on the ground."

Hayley adds: "Every diocese and religious body will have a different baseline, and every context will have its own challenges. We understand that. But whatever stage you are at, your audit is your chance to demonstrate your safeguarding work - wherever you are."

We're also really pleased to introduce the newest member of the team, Paul Threlfall. Paul joins us from an extensive background in Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in the Public Sector. Paul says: "I'm so pleased to be here. There is lots of work to do at CSSA. But our work could not be more important in protecting people from harm. I'm looking forward to meeting you all."

Watch this space for the schedule of audits over coming months. **To book your place at an audit workshop, or to speak with Stephen or Paul, please email:**
stephen.kimble@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk or
paul.threlfall@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk.



STOP PRESS!
WE'RE THRILLED TO
ANNOUNCE THAT **HAYLEY
BROOKS** HAS, AFTER AN
EXTREMELY TOUGH PROCESS,
BEEN APPOINTED **NEW
QUALITY ASSURANCE
MANAGER.**

MANY OF YOU WILL KNOW
HAYLEY ALREADY. SHE WILL
OVERSEE THE TEAM IN
ROLLING-OUT THE AUDIT
PROGRAMME TO THE
HIGHEST POSSIBLE
STANDARDS.



CSSA Conference 2022

We're relieved that we can finally plan to meet safely in person again. The team are busy working on a conference for diocesan leaders and representatives involved in safeguarding at every level.

Our conference will be an opportunity to hear from experts and leaders both in safeguarding and other specialisms in both the Catholic and external environment. It will also be chance for all of us to learn from one another and ensure we apply the best safeguarding practice in everything we do.

Says Nazir Afzal, our Chair: "The word 'conference' probably doesn't fill our hearts with joy. But this is a rare opportunity. Bishops, Senior Church Leaders: we know the scale of the challenge here. We're all serious about there being no place to hide for abusers in the Catholic Church. We're only going to get there if we hear one another, then act on what we hear. Triggering change can only come from the top, and we need you with us please. I will be writing to you personally, because I'd love to see you in October."



CSSA CONFERENCE: SAVE THE DATE

BISHOPS AND SENIOR LEADERS:
PLEASE SAVE MON 17 OCTOBER FOR
KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND LEADERSHIP
SESSION.
FROM 12 NOON

**COORDINATORS AND SUB-COMMITTEE
CHAIRS:**
PLEASE SAVE TUESDAY 18 / WEDNESDAY 19
OCTOBER

VENUE WILL BE IN THE MIDLANDS, MORE
DETAILS TO COME.

BISHOPS AND SENIOR LEADERS : WE NEED YOU!

Bishops and Senior Church Leaders:

Please save Mon 17 October for keynote speaker and Leadership session. From 12 noon.

Co-coordinators and Sub-Committee Chairs:

Please save Tue 18 / Wed 19 October

Venue will be in the Midlands, more details to come.



Policy, Practice Guidance, new resources:

An update from Colette, our CEO:

In July 2021, following the inquest into the death of Fr AG in the Archdiocese of Westminster, the Coroner issued the CSSA with a Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths report. In response to the concerns raised by the Coroner, we will issue the following (on our CSSA website) very soon:

- A written resource on 'Reflection and Professional Curiosity' to support safeguarding practitioners in their casework
- A form template to support reflection and critical thinking in casework meetings which includes areas to consider and address, and which will act as a prompt to safeguarding practitioners

We are making some updates to the Practice Guidance 'Conducting an initial meeting to inform an individual within the Catholic Church that safeguarding concerns have arisen or an allegation has been made' with an emphasis on:

- The importance of promptly informing individuals of allegations made against them (in accordance with data protection legislation and the advice of statutory authorities)
- Completing safeguarding investigations in a timely manner, and
- Ensuring that support needs are identified and met.

The Practice Guidance in relation to Induction, Supervision and Support has been updated. Previously it was a requirement for case management supervision to be undertaken regularly. Now, the requirement is monthly (pro-rata for non-full-time roles) as a minimum, with the requirement for more frequently if there are obstacles or changes that require resolution.

We are updating the policy and practice guidance for 'Management of allegations and concerns' in the area of adult safeguarding, dealing with low level concerns, and what to do when concerns are raised, but the information cannot immediately be clarified or verified. We will let you know more about this in due course.

Later in the year, as well as 'Reflection and Professional Curiosity' we will also launch online learning modules on 'Supporting individuals against whom allegations or concerns have been raised', and 'Mental Health First Aid'.

We will let you know by email when all of this is available.

If you would like to know more about how to access any of this information, please get in touch with admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk



Are you interested in supporting CSSA?

We will soon be in touch again to let you know about opportunities to join the CSSA Board Committees and contribute to the development and operations of the CSSA.

We'd love as wide a range of people as possible in these roles.

Watch this space!

Engaging with CSSA: Are you in?

We have arranged a meeting with Safeguarding Sub Committee Chairs on Wednesday 1 June at 2.00pm. Please email anna.gebski@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk to confirm your attendance. We are looking forward to hearing from you about what you would like on the agenda.

We're getting better at communicating. There's a very long way to go, but we will get there. Watch this space for website and social media news. Thank you to all those who have supported and encouraged us so far. It's great to have you with us on our journey.



**SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS :
THERE'S STILL TIME TO GIVE US AGENDA ITEMS FOR 1 JUNE MEETING!**



Learning Together: News from Seb and Nicola

The development of our brand-new online learning resource is going from strength to strength. The portal is designed for anyone with a safeguarding role (which is everyone!) You can learn about the CSSA standards and how they impact keeping people safe in the Catholic Church context. You can learn and explore in your own time at your own pace, entirely online, with materials specifically written for you.

The resource will only be ready to launch officially once people have had a chance to try it out, so we can adapt the content to what people need. So far over 130 people have tested it, including Parish Safeguarding Reps, Diocese Safeguarding Reps and Senior Clergy. We're grateful and heartened by the responses.

We have lots of work still to do to get the content as tailored as possible to users' needs, but we are well on the way. The three Leadership and Volunteer Modules will be launched on a trial basis shortly. We are also working on a module to support a new practice resource about the importance of reflection and professional curiosity. Still to come are the modules oriented at supporting the work of Safeguarding Officers.

One user said "The new CSSA learning website is an extremely valuable tool that needs passing on to all members of the clergy and all in formation as soon as possible. I've been so captured that I've got home and registered myself for the online courses already!"

A particular thank you to those victims and survivors of abuse who have worked with us to get it right.

If you would like to test the portal ahead of the official launch, please contact us. Otherwise, WATCH THIS SPACE for the official launch!

in the pic; ***Seb talking with safeguarding representatives in East Anglia, joined by Bishop Alan Hopes.***

LET'S TALK!

Nicola and Seb's diaries are getting full, both with webinars and with in-person training over the summer.

Don't wait too long to make your bookings to talk with us, as things are moving fast in terms of training opportunities. You can reach Seb or Nicola at training@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk.



Future of regional coordinator meetings - tell us what you think..

Over the last year, we have enjoyed hosting online cluster meetings with safeguarding coordinators in dioceses across England and Wales on a regular basis. As CSSA has got up and running, and particularly throughout the pandemic, these meetings proved valuable as a way of establishing foundations for working together.

We are now establishing regular communications on the progress of the CSSA, hosting audit workshops, arranging the annual safeguarding conference, supporting training (both face to face and online). In these ways, we will ensure that we keep you informed and up to date.

There are other opportunities to connect with CSSA and our doors are open for enquiries as usual. We have regular contact with diocesan safeguarding offices consulting on cases, policy, DBS checks and more. There is no need to wait for a meeting to speak with us.

We would like to hear from you about the future of the CSSA hosted cluster meetings. We are aware that many of you have your own clusters, and we are keen to make the best use of everybody's time by not duplicating processes or arranging meetings where there is no specific agenda from those invited.

We will review your feedback on the need for these meetings, and what you would like to achieve from them. Whilst this is underway, we will not diarise further meetings, but please get in touch as a meeting can always be arranged.

We remain here, present and available to you, every day, for your individual concerns and queries. Safeguarding concerns can rarely wait and you should pick up the phone or email us if you'd like to consult with us to support you in your safeguarding management.

To get in touch with Mick, or Angie, our National Practice Advisors:

Email

michael.walker@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk or
angie.richardson@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk.

You can ring

Mick on 07956 749 504 or

Angie on 07399 755 550



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