

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2011, 1.30pm at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Popley, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9DX

Present Lorna Duggan (Commission Chair) (LD), Angela McGrory (AMcG), Kate Burke (KB), Margaret Muncaster (MM), Fr David Sillince (Fr DS), Paul Neary (PN) Paul O'Driscoll (PO'D) & Soraya Ciccarone (Minutes)

In Attendance representing the Bishop's Council – Rev Mgr VG Vincent Harvey (Fr VH)

LD welcomed everyone to the Meeting and Father David led with a prayer

1) Apologies

All present

2) Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd March 2011

Factual accuracy – minutes approved.

3) Matters Arising (not on Agenda)

NCSC Workshop on Clergy Training 27th & 28th April – AMcG reported that Fr Paul Townsend had attended this but the whole event had not met his expectations.

CRB's and EM's – AMcG reported that she had attended a Co-ordinating Pastors' Meeting on 24th March and the issue of CRB checks for EM's was further discussed. Several priests had said that they would still like all EM's to be checked as all EM's in their Parish are commissioned to minister to the sick and the housebound. AMcG and Jane Green our CRB Administrator are fine with this and are continuing to do the checks if they do come in.

4) DSC Report

4.0 SafeSys

AMcG gave a brief update. The new release is still being worked on and should be available soon after September 2011.

4.3 CDF (Congregatio Pro Doctrina Fidei) – Have issued guidelines to say that all Bishops' conferences must have policies in place for the management of allegations regarding the sexual abuse of minors. AMcG said that this is a step in the right direction however it would have been useful to actually have these guidelines given to the conferences rather than having to compile them. (Link below).

http://catholic-ew.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/press_releases/Press-Releases-2011/Holy-See-asks-Bishops-Conferences-to-Prepare-Safeguarding-Guidelines

4.5 Clergy and Rep Sessions – AMcG reported that seven of these have now taken place and there are another six planned. They are going well and we will email out again about the need to attend for those who have not attended/registered to attend as yet. A good number of deacons are attending this year as they are evening sessions.

4.7 CRB – Re-Checks – AMcG requested that a decision be made by the Commission. We don't yet know what the Freedom Bill will say on this but the suggestion is to re-check the Clergy first (We would have to do all the current forms apart from the Ref forms again).

This would start in July and run on until the end of October as the closing date. We would then consider the next groups to be re-checked.

Checks conducted in the last three years would be acceptable and re-checks would be done on anything over this time frame. All agreed.

5) Chair's Update

Regional Chairs' Meeting – LD reported that there are no further updates as there have not been any further meetings since our last Commission meeting.

Generic Job Description for post of Safeguarding Co-ordinators – LD reported that this had been circulated recently. KB suggested that it would be a good idea for SCO's to be affiliated to a body of their own as this would be a great support for AMcG.

6) Any Other Business

AMcG Annual Leave Cover – PN offered to provide the cover for the period from 26th August to 6th September.

Fr VH will also ensure that there is VG cover for AMcG's leave periods & Mgr John Nelson will also cover.

Bishops Council Meeting (July)

Fr DS offered his apologies for this meeting as he will be on A/L.

LD thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting ended at 3.00pm

Dates of Meetings for 2011

Wednesday 13th July (To attend Bishops Council Meeting) – St Bedes, Basingstoke

Wednesday 21st September @ 1.30pm – St Bedes, Basingstoke

Wednesday 16th November @ 1.30pm- St Bedes, Basingstoke