

DIOCESE OF TRURO PAST CASES REVIEW 2 (PCR2)

LOCAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Introduction to Diocesan PCR2 & headline data

The Past Case Review 2 (PCR2) process is an independent review that is being carried out in every diocese and church institution. The aim of the review is to identify both good practice and institutional failings in relation to how allegations of abuse have been handled, and to provide recommendations to the Church of England that will lead to improvements in its response to allegations of abuse and in its overall safeguarding working practices; thereby ensuring a safer environment for all.

The Diocese of Truro and Truro Cathedral are two separate legal entities. Regarding safeguarding, they work in partnership through a service level agreement to implement, monitor and improve practice. The PCR2 for both diocese and cathedral were conducted as a single exercise, with separate, but linked findings and recommendations.

This local executive summary relates to the PCR2 review for the Diocese of Truro, which was undertaken in the Diocese from late January 2020 with completion February 2021.

During the course of the PCR2 review 442 files were reviewed and 22 new safeguarding cases were identified.

Local themes

The independent reviewers found evidence of good practice support and advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) when referred or contacted for advice. Our Mental Health and Domestic Abuse support was also recognised as best practice. It was noted that the safeguarding team demonstrated good practice in safeguarding investigations and in working with multi-agency bodies.

In addition to identifying cases where it was considered different or further action may be required, the reviewers made recommendations about safeguarding practice (support, guidance and/or training).

Those recommendations fit into the following 8 themes.



Implementation of Local Recommendations

During 2021 a sub group of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) was put in place to jointly review the PCR2 recommendations for the Diocese of Truro and Truro Cathedral. The sub group included representatives from the Cathedral, the Diocese, parishes and our Survivor Advocate.

We have identified 20 key actions that are either solely for the Diocese or shared with our partners at the Cathedral, all of which have been prioritised and incorporated into the diocesan safeguarding (or other teams) work programmes.

Improvements that have already been put in place include:

- working with managers and parishes to ensure safer recruitment practice is in place, in particular clarifying DBS and safeguarding training requirements for roles and providing tools to ensure that regular monitoring is in place;
- simplified complaints policy is now in place, and is published on our website;
- raised awareness of domestic abuse through safeguarding briefings, website information and training;
- Parish Safeguarding Dashboards provided to all parishes to support them in implementing safeguarding practice;

We are on target for reviewing all of those cases where it was considered different or further action may be required and will be reporting lessons learnt to DSAP.

Survivor Strategy

The Diocese, in conjunction with our partners, developed “safeguarding: caring for people who have experienced abuse” in order to make sure that people who are in need of help are able to access it. The PCR2 Reference Group were responsible for monitoring the implementation of the strategy throughout PCR2.

We continue to work with our partners, to maintain a focus on listening and learning from survivors. Our survivor advocate continues to provide expertise and guidance and is now an active member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP).

Part of the work we have already done is to agree a pathway for survivors and diocesan staff who have experienced either historic or recent abuse so that they can access independent support based on their needs, separate from the diocese.

Role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

Alongside the bishop, the independent chair of the DSAP was responsible for agreeing the implementation plan for PCR and ensuring that a PCR reference group was in place to

- ensure robust risk management
- provide dispute resolution when there are differing professional opinions between the DSA and the Independent reviewer

- ensure that the right care and support is in place for anyone that is impacted upon by the undertaking of this review
- review the recommendations from the DSA regarding the exemption of a proportion of previously reviewed cases/files and ensure that agreement to seek exemptions is unanimous

In order to provide independent scrutiny and decision making the DSAP received progress reports throughout the PCR2 process and continue to review our progress against the recommendations.