

CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Welcome to issue 30 of Safeguarding Matters

This is the regular Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. Should you have any comments—please email CSAS Admin: admin@csas.uk.net



Supporting Safeguarding in the Religious—Review

In Introducing the new arrangements for supporting safeguarding in the Religious in April 2013 a commitment was given that there would be a review of these arrangements within a year. To honour that commitment, questionnaires were sent out early this year to Safeguarding Coordinators, Commission Chairs, Safeguarding Reps in the Religious and Provincials.

Thank you to all those who contributed. We received responses from 160 Religious Orders and from 17 Safeguarding Coordinators.

In general the responses were extremely positive, though in certain areas there is more to be done. Here are some headlines:



circumstances of the Religious.

- Have you had contact with CSAS? **86% Yes**
- How would you rate the service you received? **86% Good, 14% Satisfactory**

Responses from Safeguarding Coordinators

- How would you rate the response from the Religious to contact you have made? **93% Good, 7% Satisfactory**
- What proportion of Orders have actively responded to contact from your Office or Commission? **All 65%, more than half 35%.**
- There are now **over 80%** of Commissions with Religious representation, though this is not always known about by those Orders aligned to that Commission.

More information about the review will be included in the NCSC Annual Report 2013-2014 due for release in July.

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Responses from Religious Orders

- Have you had any contact with your new Safeguarding Coordinator? **88% Yes**
- How would you rate that contact? **81% Good, 15 % Satisfactory**
- How would you rate services you received from the Safeguarding Office? **74% Good, 22% Satisfactory**
- **95%** felt confident that the Safeguarding Office was sympathetic to the needs and



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CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY SERVICE (CSAS)

The CSAS has been established to be responsible for driving and supporting improvements in practice. Its primary role is one of co-ordination, advice and support in respect of the wider job of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

CSAS Move

CSAS moved into their current offices at Queensway House in Birmingham in August 2009.

This will be our last full year at the office however, as this lease is due to expire in early 2015.

We will be moving to new offices at 39 Eccleston Square, London in February 2015.

Inevitably, as we approach the moving date, there is likely to be some disruption to the service provided by CSAS but we aim to keep this to a minimum and will inform you of all new contact details nearer the time.



IT Development Project

We are looking to implement two software packages for volunteer management and case recording, in line with the introduction of eBulk i.e. the electronic processing of DBS checks. This is set to improve standards in safeguarding throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The online eBulk system will speed up and simplify the DBS application process, cut down duplication of forms and save massively on postage costs. It will also provide an avenue to ensure consistency with regards to disclosure eligibility. The volunteer management system will enable



safeguarding offices to track those involved in ministry with the young and vulnerable, facilitating recruitment activity, training and communication with Parish Reps. The case recording system will provide consistency in case recording across safeguarding offices, aid information sharing and improve data security.

The development of the three strands together would allow for more efficient management of safeguarding resources, enhance quality assurance and facilitate the generation of national data improving transparency and reporting.

This initiative is being endorsed by the Bishops' Conference Secretariat, Diocesan Finance Secretaries and Safeguarding Coordinators in general. Whilst areas are still in development, we look forward to an exciting pilot in the summer.