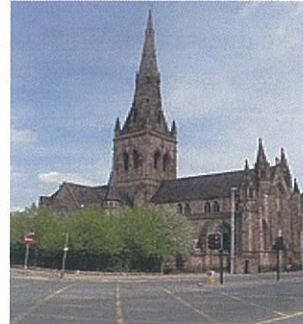


SAFEGUARDING RESTRUCTURING

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



Ealing Abbey Parish Centre



Salford Cathedral

WERE YOU THERE?

The meetings at Ealing and Salford were well attended, as was the shorter meeting at Swanwick during the CSAS Safeguarding Conference. To recap:

The Three Options

- ❖ A reminder about the “Three Options” was provided. Questions focused mainly on how options two and three would work. A few congregations are exploring “joining forces” and another group are considering going it alone. Provided the plans of congregations considering either of these two options are sound, and provided they are then able to meet National Safeguarding Standards, their proposals would be supported.
- ❖ There were also questions on option one, chiefly on the mechanics of how the new commissions would operate (e.g. the relationship between the safeguarding lead for religious and the safeguarding office, the role of the counter-signatory office, and the role of the representative for religious life on the commission). Answers on this point may need to wait until the new commissions are up and running.

Alignment

- ❖ A number of questions dealt with “what ifs” – what if a new commission cannot manage to accommodate a high number of congregations?; what if a religious order moves out of the diocese with which it is aligned?; what if the dioceses are reluctant to agree to the proposal? This last question relies on the Bishops having a clear picture of exactly what the proposals are and what they will mean in practice. They will be considering those issues at the Bishops’ Conference on 23rd April.
- ❖ Consideration will need to be given to matters of resources, geography, charisms of congregations and the numbers of orders and congregations wishing to align with specific dioceses.

Training and Awareness

- ❖ It was recognised that this is an important topic that will need thoughtful handling. The Task and Finish Group looking at this topic has completed its work and has produced a series of recommendations and proposals for consideration and action.

Managing Allegations

- ❖ Many of the questions from the consultations sought to clarify a range of situations, an example being where a member of an order lives in diocese X, with a main house in diocese Y, and allegations are made relating to offences committed in diocese Z. (The answer to who will take overall responsibility and inform the other dioceses is diocese X). We also noted queries about the relationship between, and the roles of the safeguarding commission and the safeguarding office. (The office carries out the recommendations of the commission, which is also responsible for oversight and strategy).
- ❖ Answers to questions about the “fine tuning” of arrangements and responsibilities will as mentioned earlier have to rely on the application of common sense, and if necessary, advice from CSAS. There cannot be predetermined answers to every scenario that can be imagined so we trust it will be sufficiently reassuring to say that any situation can be resolved given the willingness to discuss it.

Funding

- ❖ Funding the restructuring figured strongly. Many people will know that a formula based on the size of a congregation was proposed, but even this apparently simple suggestion raised further queries although qualified approval for it was received from those attending the consultation events. Consideration is to be given to fees for core services with additional charges for “extras” that fall outside them. There needs to be a more equitable approach to funding this vital area of ministry than is currently the case.

Safer Recruitment

- ❖ Many Religious Congregations make extensive use of recruitment services, such as CRB administration, because of the nature of their ministries. The Countersignatory office at CoR was highlighted as an example of good practice and a vital cog in the recruitment process. It is intended that we maintain this office to support recruitment for the religious.



TIMELINE:

The “go live” date for implementation of the new arrangements is 1st January 2013



Please note that the meetings scheduled for 27th and 30th April have been postponed. The new dates are: Friday 22nd June at Ealing and Monday 25th June at Salford. Invitations will be sent out soon



The Department for Christian Responsibility, CoR and NCSC have given their approval for the restructuring project