

Past Cases Review Annual Safeguarding Audit Framework

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| Contact Name and Details | Ms Jane Stacey jane-stacey@virginmedia.com |
| Status of Paper | Final |
| Action Required | For decision |
| Draft Resolutions | 28/1. The Council receives the report. 28/2. The Council adopts the framework for the audit of safeguarding awareness in the pilot districts. |
| Alternative Options to Consider, if Any | None |

Past Cases Review Annual Audit

The report on the Past Cases Review 2013-2015 'Courage, Cost and Hope' Recommendation H.1.9 stated that "until the Methodist Church has robust accountability processes in place and fully operational, an annual independent audit of progress on these cultural change recommendations and in particular on the mainstreaming of safeguarding awareness be carried out; and that a framework for the audits and proposals on who should carry them out be agreed by the Methodist Council in October 2015". The Past Cases Review Implementation Group now offers to the Methodist Council the detailed questions for the audits of safeguarding awareness which follows below. The audits will be carried out by a team of researchers including a number of District Safeguarding Officers in a number of pilot districts. The questions will be offered in both interview and questionnaire format.

A. Questions for Chairs, superintendents and ministers of identified districts

1. Knowledge of the Past Cases Review (PCR) report and the key lessons to be learnt

- Have you read the full PCR review report? When did you read it?
- If you have not read it how have you informed yourself of the lessons that need to be learnt?
- What was your initial reaction when the PCR report was released to the media with the apology made by the Methodist Church on 28 May 2015?
- Were there any events organised in your district and/or circuit to discuss the report and the lessons contained within it?
- Did you attend any of these events if they were held? If not did you receive a written report following the event(s) or verbal feedback? How helpful were the events and/or feedback received to you?
- Have you been aware of any resistance to the messages of the Past Cases Review?

2. Reflection on how the lessons have impacted on practice at district, circuit and individual level

- Can you say what impact, if any, the report has had on your individual practice, including your understanding of safeguarding? Please be as specific as you can, giving examples whenever possible.
- How do you record your pastoral work and how do you store your records?
- Has the PCR report had any impact on this?
- To your knowledge what impact, if any, has the report had on practice at circuit level? Please be as specific as you can, giving examples whenever possible.
- To your knowledge what impact, if any, has the report had on practice at district level?
- Do you think the report has led to an increased awareness of safeguarding within your church congregation and a better understanding of why people need to attend safeguarding training?

3. Barriers experienced in trying to put the lessons into practice

- Please tell us what have been the barriers to trying to put the lessons into practice for you individually, in relation to your direct practice and the practice of anyone else for whom you hold a supervisory/oversight role of some kind?
- What action have you taken to try to overcome these barriers and how successful was it?

4. Other feedback/comment

- Please give us feedback on any relevant topic including how you could be helped/supported to take forward the lessons identified in the PCR report.

B. Questions for specialist Connexion wide roles (Safeguarding Adviser, Assistant Secretary of the Conference, staff with responsibility for the Complaints and Discipline process)

All these roles will have been involved in the detail of the implementation of some of the recommendations from the report in relation to their specific roles. These roles will have had opportunities to assess more broadly how the culture change that is recommended in the report is being received and understood across the Connexion and it is this that the audit questions are trying to focus on.

- Can you give us your perspective on how the cultural changes that are both explicit and implicit in the PCR report are being received and understood across the Connexion? Please give us specific examples whenever possible.
- Can you identify for us the main barriers to change that you have experienced either directly or have heard about from others?

C. Questions for DSOs (written questionnaire)

- Please tell us, to your knowledge, what events were held across your district to support awareness and understanding of the PCR report and implementing recommendations in practice? How many of these did you organise and how many were you invited to participate in?
- To your knowledge, what impact has the PCR report had on the understanding about safeguarding and safeguarding practice within your district? Please give specific examples whenever possible.
- Specifically has there been any impact on people understanding the importance of attending safeguarding training?
- What have been the major barriers to implementing the lessons identified that either you have experienced directly or have heard about from others?
- What further support would be helpful to the implementation of the lessons from the PCR report?
- Supervision is central to the cultural change recommended in the report. How many times have you received supervision in the last 12 months? How would you rate the quality of that supervision?

*****RESOLUTIONS**

28/1. The Council receives the report.

28/2. The Council adopts the framework for the audit of safeguarding awareness in the pilot districts.