

Diocesan Safeguarding Team Update June 2023

Report Title:	Diocesan Safeguarding Team update - June 2023
Committee:	Portsmouth Diocesan Synod
Date of Committee:	10 th June 2023
Report Author:	Emily Hassan, Diocesan Safeguarding Team Manager
Actions for the committee requested:	<p>Members of synod are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the changes made to the staffing establishment for the Safeguarding Team to ensure that the diocese continues to have sufficient capacity to meet the demand for good quality safeguarding advice, casework and training. 2. Note the progress of the Case management system. 3. Note the successful reduction in casework numbers and PCR2 cases with ongoing recommendations. 4. Note the significant attendance at training courses offered by the Diocese since the start of 2023 which evidences increased awareness and engagement across the diocese. 5. Note the various types of support offered to our Parish Safeguarding officers. This area of good practice has recently been recognised by the National Safeguarding Team.

1. Staffing Update

- The team continue to work well together and there is a lovely sense of shared vision and purpose within the team. The team really benefit from having professionals from a mixture of backgrounds from social care, health and police and also a mixture of both professionals with and without a Christian faith.
- Since the February 2023 meeting, Liz Hastings has chosen to reduce her working hours from three days down to two in order to accommodate a greater work life balance which she enjoys. As a retired police officer she is an asset to our team in terms of experience and knowledge so we are keen to accommodate her request. This does however mean that we had lost one full day case worker capacity and limits some cases which previously would have been allocated to her if they require intensive support.
- Meanwhile Claire Lewis has agreed to become a permanent full time case worker. Claire had been hired to work predominantly on PCR2 cases and doing this 3 days per

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week. Claire is a very experienced social worker with additional experience of training, quality & assurance and policy writing. Therefore we are keen for her to expand her role once the PCR2 cases are completed to support the team in quality assurance, auditing and support with training in addition to casework.

- For clarity, this means that we have Daisy (3 days) and Liz (2 days) as the equivalent of one full time member of staff and Claire (5 days) making up the second. We need to remain aware that in February 2022 the Diocese acknowledged we did not meet minimum capacity with only one DSA in post and therefore I hope will remain committed to keeping staffing levels sufficient for us to continue to offer a good standard of practice.
- My hours have increased from 4 days to 5 which provides more time but also oversight. I manage the duty email account and triage phone calls and allocate directly.

2. MyConcern case management system

- A further scoping meeting was attended by ourselves and the project team to discuss the plans for moving to the new system. This was also attended by Ben Summerfield, IT & Digital Director for Portsmouth, Winchester and Guildford Diocese. It was helpful to have his input and expertise when discussing the practical considerations for how we will onboard our data from Safebase to MyConcern.
- MyConcern program continues to be the most appropriate program in my opinion and as a team we are working on clearing the backlog of cases which are currently saved onto the T-drive so that we can be confident when we start updating the spreadsheet that we hold all of the casefiles in one location. This should take approximately one more week, so we are still on track to be ready around June 2023.

3. Caseload data including PCR2

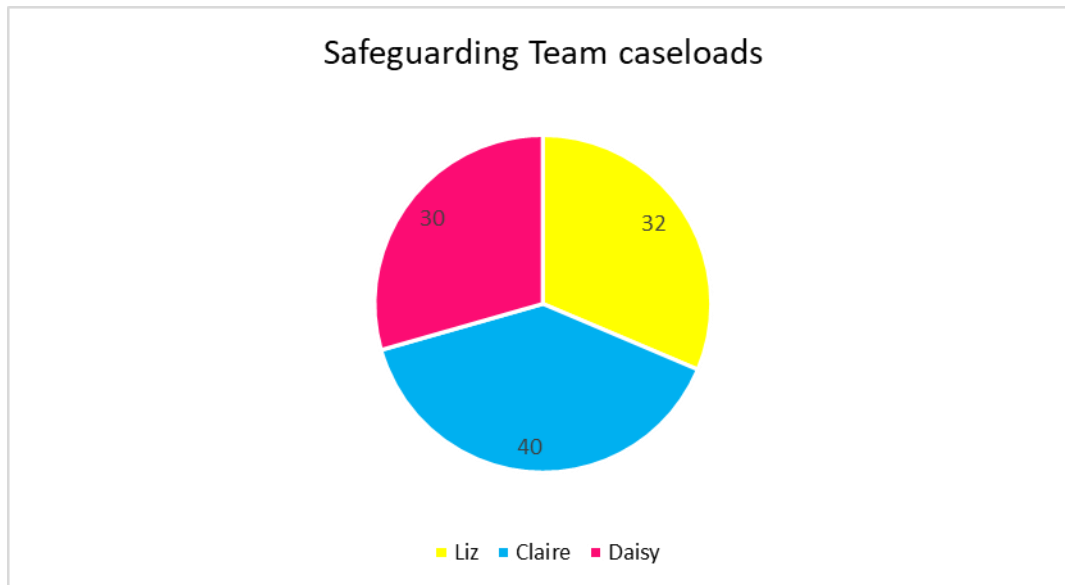
- We remain committed to reducing the volume of historic open cases and those generated from PCR2. Whilst this remains a key priority, this has to be carefully balanced with live casework and with DSA's co-facilitating on training due to the increased numbers of attendees. The safeguarding team has seen a steady increase in contacts as the reputation of the team grows and as we continue to build up trusted relationships with clergy, parishes and the network of PSO's. On average the team triage around 25 to 50 calls per week and around 25 emails. Of those some will be advice or signposting whereas some will become referrals and require further work and support.

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- We no longer have any unallocated cases and the 102 cases displayed in the diagram below are the total number of cases for the team. It would be helpful to be able to identify the ratio of PCR2 work compared to current cases however unfortunately this is not likely to be possible before we onboard to MyConcern.

As of 3rd May 2023

102 - Total cases (Compared with 144 at last Bishops council and over 400 in February 2022).



4. Training

Diocesan Safeguarding Training Delivery January to April of 2023

Basic Awareness Face to Face including in parishes
 Foundation Face-to-face including in parishes
 Leadership (2 sessions)
 Local Leadership/PTO
 Domestic Abuse Face-to-Face including in parishes
 PSO Induction 1
TOTAL 29 courses provided 343 numbers completed

5. PSO/ Parish Support

The Safeguarding team continue to offer PSO network evenings and Q&A sessions continue to be well attended. We answer as many questions as we can during the sessions and all questions and answers are circulated to PSO's so that those who cannot attend can still have access to the information. We also live streamed the PSO network evening so this could be watched at a later date. We would like to offer some one off sessions to complete more

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reflective training with case studies so that PSO's could work in groups to explore some more complex/ ethical dilemmas as a way to increase the depth of their learning and knowledge base. This would be beneficial, particularly when we consider the need to be inclusive, balancing a range of differing views around topics such as sexuality, gender, forgiveness etc.

6. A final date for your diaries.....

We are beginning to organise this year's safeguarding conference which will be held on **23rd September 2023** at St Luke's Church, Southsea. This year it will be a day of mixed talks and workshops with some guest speakers.