

Past Cases Review (PCR) Implementation Group - Update on Progress

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Helen D Cameron, Assistant Secretary of the Conference asc@methodistchurch.org.uk
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	For information
Draft Resolutions	84/1. The Council receives the report.
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	n/a

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To update the Methodist Council on the work of the Past Cases Review Implementation Group
Main Points	Significant progress made in implementing a number of recommendations particularly 7 and 9.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<i>Courage, Cost and Hope</i> : The Past Cases Review Report to the Methodist Conference 2015

Past Cases Review (PCR) Implementation Group - Update on progress

Introduction:

There were 23 Recommendations made in the report which the Conference received.

The PCR Implementation group appointed by the Conference consists of:

The Revd Gwyneth Owen (Chair)

Ms Jane Stacey

Mr Doug Swanney

The Revd Stuart Jordan

The Revd Henry Lewis

The Revd Helen D Cameron

The group requested the Connexional Safeguarding Advisor Hilary Walker to be present at meetings of the group.

The group met on 27 August 2015 and created an action plan for implementation of the 23 recommendations of the Conference report [Recommendation1].

Progress to date:

1. The group has communicated with Development and Personnel staff of the Connexional Team requesting that the selection criteria for district chairs, the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order and members of the Senior Leadership Group of the Connexional Team include awareness of and ability to deal effectively with safeguarding issues. **[Recommendation 2]**
2. A draft policy and guidance note regarding best practice is being prepared to define what should be recorded by ministers and others undertaking pastoral roles. **[Recommendation 3]**
3. A draft policy and guidance note is being prepared about storage and access to pastoral records, specifying particularly requirements on ministerial handover. **[Recommendation 4]**
4. All those who deliver safeguarding training at Foundation or Leadership module level will be required to attend training on the findings of the Past Cases Review. **[Recommendation 5]**
5. The PCR Implementation Group is in touch with those who hold responsibility for Initial Ministerial Training at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham to ensure that all students, irrespective of their pathway, engage with the findings of the PCR Report. **[Recommendation 6]**
6. A Supervision Working Party has been established which includes 2 superintendent ministers, 2 chairs of district and a number of senior supervision practitioners to enable the implementation of a programme for all ministers in circuit, district and connexional appointments to receive structured supervision. A draft policy on supervision has been written and is presented separately to the Council. **[Recommendation 7]**
7. The PCR Implementation group has not proceeded with work on a Code of Conduct for ministers as they were informed this was work being undertaken by a group from the Connexional Leaders' Forum (CLF). It urges careful co-ordination of the work of this group with the work of the PCR Implementation Group. **[Recommendation 8]**

8. A proposal regarding a framework for an annual independent audit of progress in culture change regarding accountability in the life of the Methodist Church is being brought to the October 2015 meeting of the Council. **[Recommendation 9]**
9. The PCR Implementation group has begun a conversation with relevant staff in the Conference Office regarding the training of members of the Connexional Complaints Panel and was glad to hear that the Revd Alison F Tomlin will lead a session on safeguarding and engage with the findings of the PCR report at the training weekend in late September 2015. In addition those members of the Connexional Complaints Panel who have not completed the Leadership module will be required to do so. **[Recommendation 10]**
10. The PCR Implementation Group will meet with the Connexional Complaints Worker at its next meeting in October in order to ensure that the PCR definition of a 'Safeguarding concern' is used by Local Complaints Officers, Complaints Teams and Discipline Committees and that work is undertaken to ensure a rigorous system of liaison and consultation between all parts of the complaints process, resignation and suspension of ministers processes and the Connexional Safeguarding Officer to ensure that appropriate advice is obtained. **[Recommendations 12, 13 and 14]**
11. All current safeguarding training material is being reviewed and further sections incorporating the findings of the PCR report are being written. **[Recommendation 15]**
12. A review of which roles should be required to be present at which level is underway. **[Recommendation 16]**
13. A conversation is being sought with the officers of the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network (DMLN) in order to ensure that suitable materials might be produced to promote safe relationships within church communities. **[Recommendation 17]**
14. Work has begun on reviewing the Safeguarding Policy of the Methodist Church. **[Recommendation 18]**
15. Work has begun on establishing a connexional register of covenants of care and a working group established to progress a review of policies for this area of work. **[Recommendation 19]**
16. Involvement with, and consultation of, survivor groups in relation to the development of materials or policies is a key component of the work of the PCR Implementation Group. Consultation and co-operation with the Church of England is possible as they are also establishing a survivor support group in relation to abuse and domestic violence issues. **[Recommendation 20 and 23]**
17. The Connexional Safeguarding Team are committed to identifying any further learning points which emerge from their follow-up work and will share these with the PCR Implementation Group when the work is completed **[Recommendation 21]**
18. The resources required to permit the Safeguarding Team to complete the PCR work is identified within the connexional budget. **[Recommendation 22]**

*****RESOLUTION**

84/1. The Council receives the Report.