

Recommendation 9 from the Past Cases Review Report

Contact Name and Details	Jane Stacey (on behalf of the Past Cases Review Implementation Group)
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	For decision
Draft Resolutions	85/1. The Council agrees the framework and process outlined in the report in order to implement recommendation 9 of the Past Cases Review report.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	Broadening and deepening understanding of safeguarding among ministers and others within the Methodist Church
Main Points	Creation of an internal audit process
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<i>Courage, Cost & Hope</i> : The Past Cases Review Report to the 2015 Conference
Consultations	The Past Cases Review Implementation Group

Summary of Impact

Standing Orders	Possible
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Recommendation 9 from the Past Cases Review Report

Purpose of Report

Recommendation 9 in the Past Cases Review Report is as follows:

'That until the Methodist Church has robust accountability processes in place and fully operational, an annual independent audit of progress on these culture 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.'

This paper is written with proposals for the framework and process of the audit with the recommendation these are agreed by Council. A list of the questions to be used in the interviews and questionnaires referred to below will be submitted to Methodist Council for information at the meeting in January 2016.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Past Cases Review Report highlights some significant culture shifts that the Methodist Church needs to make in order to become a safer space. There are far reaching recommendations that relate to improving accountability and support for ministers through supervision. It will however be several years before a comprehensive and robust supervision system, which has regular reflection on safeguarding issues as a key component, is in place.
- 1.2 The report also highlights the importance of broadening and deepening understanding of safeguarding among ministers and others within the Methodist Church. Reading and absorbing the lessons of the Past Cases Review report and reflecting on what it means for each individual's ministry is a key first step in this cultural change process.
- 1.3 The aim of the proposed audit is to ensure that, for the districts that are not involved in the pilot of supervision, there is another route to ensure that the Past Cases Review lessons remain high on each minister's agenda. A secondary aim is to provide the Implementation Group with an annual "snapshot" of some of the key issues that need to be addressed if the lessons from the report are to be embedded fully in the life of the Church.

2. Proposed framework

- 2.1 The audit will have two main sources of data.
 - One will be from randomly selected anonymised sources through structured interviews within identified districts
 - The second will be from questionnaires completed by all District Safeguarding Officers and structured interviews conducted with key individuals with connexion-wide responsibilities. These individuals to include the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, The Connexional Safeguarding Adviser and the member of the Connexional Team with operational responsibility for the Complaints and Discipline system.
- 2.2 The topics to be covered in the district interviews will be:
 - Knowledge of the Past Cases Review report and the key lessons to be learnt.
 - Reflection on how the lessons have impacted on practice at district, circuit and individual level.

- Barriers experienced in trying to put these lessons into practice
- Space for other relevant feedback/comment

2.3 The questionnaires and structured interviews with identified specialist post holders will be to obtain their impressions, with evidence where possible, on the impact of the PCR lessons on their area of work.

3. Proposed process

3.1 Three individuals, all of whom have safeguarding expertise and knowledge of Methodist Church policies and practices, will conduct all the interviews and together produce the final audit report. They will be Hilary Murden (PCR Independent Consultant and former DSO), Jane Stacey (PCR Project Manager) and Agnes Tranter (PCR Independent Safeguarding Consultant and former DSO). All will be acting in a volunteer capacity.

3.2 Three districts will be identified by a random selection process (excluding those involved in the supervision pilot). Interviews will be conducted in each of the three selected districts with the District Chair, three randomly selected superintendents and five randomly selected ministers. Interviews will be face to face if at all possible by one of the reviewers but in some circumstances could be by phone/video conference.

3.3 All DSOs will be requested to complete the questionnaire.

3.4 Interviews of postholders with connexion-wide responsibility will be conducted by a pair of reviewers.

4. Proposed timescales

4.1 Questions for the structured interviews and questionnaires will be circulated to all district chairs and identified connexion-wide postholders following the meeting of the Methodist Council in January 2016.

4.2 Identification of and notification to the three districts and selected staff within those districts will be in July 2016.

4.3 Interviews and questionnaires will be completed in October 2016.

4.4 A report will be produced for the Implementation Group in November 2016 and be submitted to Methodist Council for information in January 2017.

4.5 Timescales for subsequent years will be the same and a reassessment of the process will be made by the Implementation Group in November 2017.

*****RESOLUTION**

85/1. The Council agrees the framework and process outlined in the report in order to implement recommendation 9 of the Past Cases Review report.