

## **Annex A**

### **Hubert Victor Whitsey**

*This document has been prepared on the basis of information provided on behalf of the National Safeguarding Team and supplemented by information from the documents referenced in the Chronology of Events.*

#### **Background and role of individual within the Church**

1. Hubert Victor Whitsey ("HVW") was ordained in the Diocese of Blackburn in 1949 and remained there until he moved to the Diocese of Manchester in 1955. He then returned to the Diocese of Blackburn in 1968 until he became the Suffragan Bishop of Hertford in the Diocese of St Albans from 1971 to 1974. In 1974 HVW became the Bishop of Chester and remained in that position until 31 December 1981. In 1982, HVW retired and moved to a residence within Blackburn Diocese. HVW had permission to officiate in Blackburn Diocese where he remained until he died in 1987.

#### **Summary of allegations**

2. The timeline below includes a summary of the allegations against HVW where this information is available to the Church.
3. In July 2016, the Church reported to Cheshire Police that there had been serious sexual abuse disclosures made by two males against HVW. Following this disclosure, the Cheshire Constabulary commenced a police investigation known as "Operation Coverage" and published a summary report of its investigation in October 2017.
4. During the course of the investigation, the Church received three further disclosures which it passed on to the Police. Accordingly, the Church had received a total of five disclosures of sexual abuse against HVW (relating to four children and one young adult) beginning when he was Bishop of Chester (1974-1982), with the last incident reported following his retirement to Blackburn.
5. The Operation Coverage summary report [ACE026765] provides that the police had 13 people make allegations during the police investigation (a number of whom came forward as a result of internal enquiries made by the Church).
6. Following the publication of the report, further victims came forward. The Church is aware of 19 victims of HVW.
7. Also following the publicity regarding the allegations against HVW, a Reader in Latchford reported an incident to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser of Chester Diocese regarding an incident in 1974 where another member of clergy, Gordon Dickinson, had allegedly assaulted a [DPA] HVW handled the allegation and moved Gordon Dickinson away to

	<p>the then DSA.</p> <p>At the time [redacted] wanted to remain anonymous and was not willing to come forward.</p>	
<b>January 2016</b>	<p>Pauline Butterfield (DSA, Diocese of Chester) received a disclosure in relation to [redacted]</p>	<b>ACE027143</b>
<b>January- July 2016</b>	<p>Pauline Butterfield was in touch with [redacted] but he did not want any practical, emotional or spiritual support.</p>	<b>ACE027143</b>
<b>22 June 2016</b>	<p>On establishing contact with [redacted] Annette Gordon, DSA for the Diocese of London, began to correspond with [redacted] and arranged to meet with him on 22 June 2016.</p> <p>During the meeting [redacted] disclosed that he had allegedly been abused by HVW at the age of 14. He said that he had been an [redacted] <b>DPA</b> at the time and that the abuse continued whilst he attended university.</p>	<b>ACE027143</b>
	<p>Annette Gordon provided an authorised listener for [redacted]</p> <p>Once [redacted] learned that he would only have three one-hour sessions, he stated that he did not want to make use of this service.</p>	<b>ACE027143</b>
<b>June-July 2016</b>	<p>It was after this meeting that Annette Gordon realised that the alleged abuse took place in the Diocese of Chester and contacted Pauline Butterfield.</p> <p>Pauline Butterfield made contact with [redacted]</p>	<b>ACE027143</b>
<b>27 June 2016</b>	<p>Pauline Butterfield contacted Jane Dodds, the then NST Senior Casework Manager, to relay the limited information known about the</p>	