

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Strategy Meeting regarding Downside School  
Held on 24 June 2010 at 3pm  
At Kelways, Langport**

**Attendees**

Claire Winter, LADO	Blake Northgate, Bridgwater DPA Tel: DPA
Liz Bidmead, LSCB	County Hall, Taunton Tel: DPA
Lindsay Shearlock, Acting Detective Inspector	Yeovil Police Station Tel: DPA or DPA
Dom Leo Maidlow Davis, Headmaster	Downside School, Radstock, BA3 4RJ Tel: DPA
Eugene Gallagher, Safeguarding Officer, Roman Catholic Diocese	160 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 OTX Tel: DPA
Jane Dziadulewicz, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Roman Catholic Diocese	160 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 OTX Tel: DPA

**RC-F84 – DoB: DPA, 37 – Address: Downside Abbey**

**RC-F84** was referred to Jane Dziadulewicz, Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator in March 2005 from East Anglia, where he was working at that time, following a letter that had been received from an ex-Downside pupil, **RC-A102**

**RC-A102** alleged that on a trip to Spain in the 1960s he ended up sleeping in a double bed with **RC-A102** although he was unable to remember if anything happened. He also alleged that he had been “touched up” when **RC-F84** was visiting **RC-A102**'s mother at home on several occasions. **RC-A102**'s allegations were prompted by press coverage in 2005 of allegations against another monk at Downside School.

In 2005 the allegation was considered by Bath CID (DC Paul Young). **RC-A102** was interviewed but the allegations were vague and he refused to give a statement. He was considered to be an unreliable witness due to alcohol and mental health issues. There were also concerns about **RC-A102**'s behaviour – police intelligence was that he was going to the park with a kitten and talking to children.

No further action was taken due to lack of evidence/information and it was agreed at this time that **RC-F84** would not be suspended. **RC-F84** is aware of this allegation.

**More recent concerns**

In 2008 **RC-F84** went to **DPA**. A novice monk has issued a 'civil writ' against **RC-F84** for unwanted sexual advances.

In October 2009 **RC-F84** returned to Downside Abbey and a novice monk there made allegations of **RC-F84** touching and rubbing him during private

driving lessons. The novice monk was possibly not asked whether he wanted a police inquiry. [RC-F84] is aware of this complaint.

[RC-A102] has re-contacted the Roman Catholic Diocese this year (June 2010) and insists he has spoken to the police this year to re-state his allegations although the police have no record of this.

### Police

Lindsay Shearlock said there was no trace of the 2005 allegations made by [RC-A102] on the police database (although there was no electronic system until 2007). It was likely to have been a paper record and may not have been formally recorded as a crime, hence the current no trace result.

Police hold intelligence on [RC-A102] regarding his own sexual behaviour in public (see above). He has a caution in 2005 for possession of an offensive weapon (knife) in a public place and a conviction for a public nuisance offence (unwelcome sexual behaviour in a public toilet) in 2000. The police advise staff caution, ie, do not visit alone. There is no information on the police database regarding [RC-A102]'s alleged contact with the Police.

### RC Diocese Safeguarding Office

Jane Dziadulewicz said that [RC-F84] has a [DPA] which gives him access to the school and monastery sites, so the children see him as a 'trusted adult'. He is currently in the USA and due back in a few days.

[RC-F84] has admitted sharing a bed with [RC-A102] but stated that no sexual activity took place.

The Abbot has taken the following action

1. Drawn up a code of conduct, although at the time of this meeting it had not been seen by the RC Diocese Safeguarding Office, and there was correspondence to indicate this was being breached. (Note: The code of conduct was seen by the RC Safeguarding Office after the meeting).
2. Commissioned a psychological assessment, not a risk assessment. The Abbot says he has referred this to Phoenix for a risk assessment although they have not received this yet.

If the novice monk says no to police action then the Roman Catholic Diocese can appoint an independent person to undertake an internal investigation (this is likely to be Tony Domaille, an ex-police officer).

The RC Diocese Safeguarding office are concerned that the new Abbot does not understand the safeguarding process. The Abbot is also the school Chair of Governors.

## Discussion

Although [RC-F84] has no direct contact with children he will be seen as a 'trusted adult'.

The allegations made since the 1960s mean that he needs to be seen as a constant and significant risk to all vulnerable groups, including children and novice monks.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The strategy recommended that [RC-F84] is withdrawn from his post of [DPA] – Jane Dziadulewicz to pursue.
2. Jane Dziadulewicz to look at the Code of Conduct and ensure it covers all relevant requirements and identify a named person to monitor [RC-F84] [RC-F84]'s behaviour and his adherence to the code of conduct.
3. Jane Dziadulewicz, Eugene Gallagher, Headteacher and Abbot Aidan to consider the consequences of breaches of the code of conduct, including possibly moving [RC-F84] off site.
4. Jane Dziadulewicz to speak to the novice monk regarding his views about police action and inform A/DI Lindsay Shearlock of this; also to speak to him about his awareness of any other victims.
5. Jane Dziadulewicz to contact her counterpart in [DPA] regarding the 'civil writ' issue.

[RC-F80] – DoB: [DPA] 31

Jane Dziadulewicz had received a referral from A Hobbs, Deputy Headteacher at Downside School, on 14 June 2010 regarding an allegation from [RC-A117] of an abusive sexual relationship when she was about 19 or 20 ([RC-A117] is likely to be a 'vulnerable adult' and now living in London). (See referral document and timeline – distributed to all attendees)

The Abbot has apparently spoken to [RC-F80] about this and "he didn't deny it".

## Other concerns raised

- Inappropriate dress on school site.
- Sex and relationships talk in girls' house assembly (assessed by A Hobbs, Deputy Head as "not out of the ball park")
- A number of female teenagers as Facebook contacts.

### Long history in relation to the allegation and who has been informed

- June 2007 – Abbot Aidan spoke to [RC-F80] who admitted what had happened.
- 2009 – A letter was received from the Abbot by [RC-A117] saying that [RC-F80] did not deny it; he had been told to discontinue using Facebook and that his position 'at school' was under review.

(There has been no report to the RC Diocesan Safeguarding office in relation to this).

- [RC-A117] also alleges abuse by [RC-F118] at Ampleforth in Yorkshire – he is now deceased.
- [RC-A117] has agreed to make a complaint to the police but will need great sensitivity due to her vulnerability.

### Current Role

[RC-F80] is [DPA] [DPA] [DPA] due to the allegations – now only at the Abbey; parents, staff, pupils at school and other monks have been told he is unwell and in need of total rest.

[RC-F80] has been told he has been withdrawn from school due to a 'complaint' against him – no details given. The Police have requested that no information as to their involvement be given until the alleged victim has been interviewed.

### Communications issue

The RC Diocesan Office usually agree a press statement with the police communications team at the outset of any allegation being made. The school communications officer is Gordon Pearce. The police have requested that no press statement be issued by the Roman Catholic Church until [RC-A117] has been interviewed and an investigation plan made.

### **ACTION**

1. Jane Dziadulewicz to discuss with the Abbot that [RC-F80] be given only supervised access to the internet and no access to social networking sites.
2. Jane Dziadulewicz and the police press office to compile an 'emergency' press statement to be used ONLY if information leaks. Lindsay Shearlock will contact Eugene Gallagher and Jane Dziadulewicz on 25.6.10.
3. Jane Dziadulewicz to clarify 'inappropriate dress' comment and inform the Strategy Group.

4. Jane Dziadulewicz to check any current contact that **RC-F80** has with the youth lay community in Bristol he used to run.
5. The police will try to prioritise the investigation so that interviews take place by 2.7.10.

**Father Nicholas White – dob **DPA 45****

**RC-A117** has told Jane Dziadulewicz that some time ago she had been told that Father White was accused of sexual abuse against 2 or 3 children when Housemaster in the 1980s at Downside School.

Andrew Hobbs was aware of this allegation and the internal investigation; it was not furthered in that no contact was made with the Police although apparently Father White was 'given treatment'. A strict code of conduct was put in place and Father White was restricted to the Abbey. Mr Maidlow Davis was aware these issues were not reported to the police.

Current role

Secretary to Abbot. No contact with school at all.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Jane Dziadulewicz to talk to the Abbot about the investigation process and ask to see the file.
2. If the police have not previously been informed, Jane Dziadulewicz to contact Lindsay Shearlock.

**OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

Jane Dziadulewicz will tell the Abbot that all previous historic cases (pre 2003) need to be reviewed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team or an independent person, in line with national RC procedures.

**Review Strategy:** Wednesday 21 July 2010 – 2pm – at Kelways, Langport.

Circulation: All attendees

Claire Winter, LADO .....

PP

**DPA**