



Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Mrs Shirley Hosgood

Direct Line Number:
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Addressee Only
The Right Reverend John Hind
Bishop of Chichester
The Palace
Chichester
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14th January 2009

Dear Bishop John

I met with the Revd Pearl Luxon National Safeguarding Adviser on 12th January 2010. I felt it appropriate to do this particularly in the absence of a diocesan safeguarding group being established and following the withdrawal of my professional supervisor. I have felt vulnerable in my professional role as a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser for some time due to my perception of the lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities – leading to serious matters not being dealt with in a timely way – which may lead to children being at risk. I have also been concerned about safeguarding matters not being shared with me or not being shared in a timely way. I have raised my concerns previously with you and other diocesan officers but felt that I now needed to seek advice from the National Safeguarding Adviser as well.

You may be aware from correspondence from to Archdeacon Philip Jones of concerns that it has not yet been possible to agree the Terms of Reference for an effective Diocesan Safeguarding group. Similar and additional concerns about joint working with other agencies and effective information sharing were raised by and with Philip Jones and Francesca Del Mese at a meeting we had in September 2009 to discuss Philip and Francesca's amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Diocesan Safeguarding group.

Since the Past Cases Review was presented there have been difficulties in implementing the recommendations (1, 2 & 4 have not been fully implemented and recommendation 5 has not been implemented). As Safeguarding Adviser I would have expected to have been involved in the meetings and discussions with other officers about the Reviewer's report into the handling of the Cotton and Pritchard case but I have effectively been excluded from this process. The report was delivered in May 2009 and it is of serious concern that the Diocese has not been able to consider the findings in a more timely way given that concerns are raised which may have an impact on the way safeguarding matters currently operate. In the meantime I am dealing with Philip Johnson on a weekly basis.

Cont.

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