

## **Safeguarding Review Recommendations.**

Below are listed the recommendations listed at the end of the Meekings report dated 11 February 2009 and details of the implementation of those recommendations.

### **Recommendation 1:**

*The delegated authority for the issue of PTO should be reviewed. In any event decisions should not be made by Area Bishops without formally accessing the contents on the Diocesan Blue File.*

All PTO is issued through the Palace office after receipt of a CRB enhanced disclosure, letter from Incumbent or Rural Dean requesting that person should be given PTO, swearing of declaration and oaths before the RD or Archdeacon and receipt of a “safe to receive” from sending diocese, should that apply. PTO is NOT issued at Area Office level. [A copy of the diocesan request to other dioceses for StR and Clergy Blue File is attached for reference.]

### **Recommendation 2:**

*There is a need to review the file/record system at Diocese level to ensure that where there are personal files and safeguarding case records for the same individual those files are integrated or filed together.*

All Safeguarding files have now been co-located with Blue Files for Clergy, where applicable. Any information which is considered sensitive is kept in a sealed envelope and marked “eyes only Bishop”. These files are kept securely at the Palace office.

### **Recommendation 3:**

*The system should be reviewed to provide the Safeguarding Adviser swift and straightforward access to Blue files, with appropriate confidentiality provisions.*

The Safeguarding Adviser has been given outright access to all the Blue Files, with the approval of the Bishop. When files are removed from the office by the Safeguarding Adviser, this is recorded by the office staff. All courtesy has been offered to the SA when a request for access has been made. It should also be noted that, should any cause for concern be identified by Palace Staff when a Blue File or blemished CRB arrives in the Palace office, the SA is advised immediately and she is asked for advice before any documents for PTO or licensing are issued. We are at the mercy of other dioceses, who may sometimes be lax in their approach to these methods.

### **Recommendation 4:**

*There would be a clear benefit in locating the Safeguarding Adviser in the same place as the Bishop’s files as a way of integrating key records and allowing working access to those files by both the Bishop and the Safeguarding Adviser*

(NB Bishop’s files in this instance are the Blue Personal Files of the clergy.)