Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency
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CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS AGENCY

Diocese of East Anglia
Baseline Audit Report (Pilot)

May 2023

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Executive Summary

OVERALL GRADING FOR THE DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA	**Comprehensive Assurance**
Standard 1 - Safeguarding is embedded in the Church body's leadership, governance, ministry and culture	Comprehensive Assurance
Standard 2 - Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message	Comprehensive Assurance
Standard 3 - Engaging with and Caring for those who report having been harmed	Comprehensive Assurance
Standard 4 - Effective Management of Allegations and Concerns	Comprehensive Assurance
Standard 5 - Management and Support of Subjects of Allegations and Concerns (respondents)	Comprehensive Assurance
Standard 6 - Robust Human Resource Management	Results Being Achieved
Standard 7 - Training and Support for Safeguarding	Comprehensive Assurance
Standard 8 - Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement	Results Being Achieved

This report summarises the findings of the pilot audit undertaken with the Diocese of East Anglia; the aim of the audit was to identify the progress of national safeguarding standards being implemented and embedded.

The audit draws on evidence generated from self-assessment, supporting documentation, interviews and focus groups, Commission observation, surveys and case work analysed by the CSSA. This material was used to rate the Diocese against each of the individual safeguarding standards, with scores from the sub-standards being used to calculate the overall standard grading. The scale of potential gradings is:

Basic (Below Basic if not achieved), Early Progress, Firm Progress, Results being Achieved, Comprehensive Assurance and Exemplary.

The key findings of the audit are that the Diocese is at the overall grading of *Comprehensive Assurance* at this time, with two standards achieving a *Results Being Achieved* grading and six achieving a *Comprehensive Assurance* grading[1]. There is work underway to develop practice in key areas of the safeguarding standards, and the Diocese has plans to build further on areas of strength.

Some *Exemplary* practice was seen in relation to safeguarding training, managing/supporting respondents and quality assurance/continuous improvement. Areas for development related to building on existing and planned work, such as engaging with, listening to and learning

[1] Standard 3 was initially graded as Results Being Achieved, but was raised to Comprehensive Assurance in response to post-audit representations by the Diocese. The final report was also updated to provide enhanced feedback on Standards 3, 4 and 6, in relation to Diocesan representations.

from victim-survivors, as well as exploring ways to more regularly monitor volunteer DBS compliance.

It is acknowledged that the Diocese of East Anglia proactively volunteered to assist the CSSA pilot baseline audit programme, highlighting their commitment to safeguarding, quality assurance and ongoing improvement within the Diocese.

The CSSA is grateful to the Diocese of East Anglia for their support in facilitating this pilot baseline audit.