

APIL CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Thursday 24 June 2010 - 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

King's Fund, 11 – 13 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0AN

Meeting Co-ordinator: Paul Durkin
Meeting Secretary: Tracey Storey
Topic: Clergy Abuse

The meeting was chaired by Paul Durkin the co-ordinator of the APIL Child Abuse Group.

Paul introduced Phillip Gilligan who is a senior lecturer in social work and a former practitioner. Phillip has an academic and practical background and is also a practising Roman catholic.

Phillip gave an interesting and provocative presentation entitled "Rhetoric or Reality? Do Roman Catholic Dioceses respond appropriately to child sexual abuse by their clergy?" He gave a presentation on his struggle to get information from the Diocese of Salford. He made the point that his presentation was not an attack on religious belief but on the religious hierarchy. Phillip's presentation is attached to these minutes.

Paul Durkin then introduced Justin Levinson who spoke on vicarious liability for sexual abuse by clergy. Justin provided a handout which again is attached to these minutes. Justin spoke about the case of Maga particularly.

The speakers then took questions and a lively discussion ensued. Jonathan Wheeler then gave an update on activities from the APIL EC.

Jonathan spoke about the Jackson review, damages reform, the discount rate, ongoing work regarding pre-action protocols, the Ministry of Justice claims, third party capture, clinical negligence, ELIB, pleural plaques cases and the CICA. Jonathan particularly highlighted that there was a working group regarding CICA claims and people undertaking child abuse cases were particularly encouraged to put in case studies regarding any concerns that they had about the workings of the CICA at the moment.

The meeting then closed.

Tracey Storey
11 July 2010