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Feedback session from SD Guidance launch event – 29 February 2024

Feedback from 8 different discussion groups who met to discuss the two questions shown.

What do you find that affirms your practice?

Different focusses in document e.g. formation rather than training, congruence in approach and discernment throughout the course, central point of focus for all team members to keep everyone on same page, provides affirmation.

Very useful, affirming e.g. experiential learning, 'Guidance' can be used creatively, giving many options on how it could be used, e.g. for reviewing team and bias, timings, different threads running through the course. Importance of discernment. Guidance offers help and support. Helping new members understanding the ethos of the course.

Formation and affirmation very helpful, allows flexibility within the course – allows changes as needed, importance of discernment, affirming what is already being done.

Unanimous vote of confidence on the value of this document – affirming and supportive – good to refer to. 'Guidance' good choice of title. Document supports language.

A group representing different starting points and contexts – all felt the guidelines spoke into those and affirmed existing and informed future practices. Especially congruence of being and process. Robustness of course.

Echoing the above, affirming current experience and those looking to revamp or start courses, incredibly helpful. Value of congruence – process and content, discernment centrality – is this where God is calling me? - Continuous question throughout the course.

Grateful for emphasis on journey, process, experience and need for the experiential e.g. triads, learn-unlearn-learn identified as the transformational dynamic of paschal narrative. How much time for formation and process do we give in courses? Some courses build on what has been done before. Formation is an ongoing process inside and outside our meeting together.

Encouraging – balance of content and process, centrality of discernment, formation as above. Reassuring – offering foundations, our courses are based on this. Being part of a ministry of the church – affirmed by the Guidance. This and Spiritual Direction Guidelines offers a national platform – consistent and encouraging.

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In what ways might you choose to use the guidance?

Allows affirmation but also challenge for whole course and how it ends. The value of holding space for individuals and the course as a whole. Appendix is comprehensive and allows focus on individual, helps to see each person progress in their own formation. Important for team cohesion.

Useful for reviewing and appraising course leaders (e.g. bias), timings of different elements, different threads, e.g. discernment and how to do this, reviewing how the team works, roles and balance especially for new members, understanding the ethos of the courses – formation rather than training, underpinning what we do in helpful way.

Infinitely useable! Gratitude for that. Using Guidance to create a team and pull people together. How we can use the structure – networking as trainers and how important that felt, also supervision. Query on where it goes next.

Supportive for teams that offer courses, individual practice, help with recruiting team members, interviews, reviewing course (individual and team), audit to check and review how the course is going, appendices very helpful.

How to raise consciousness about the value of Guidance, might be used in review and selection of team, back to basics upheld as a value.

Appendix 7 really helpful diagram especially with discernment featuring in all. To both review course and course trainers e.g. questions for reflection on a team training day. Process – within participants for themselves in their lives and within the course.

Discernment – ensures it is part of what the team does, the course, participants, transformational dynamics. How do you teach and develop this? Ignatian language can be used but are there other ways to describe this?

Fantastic for new courses, flexible and comprehensive, simple in conveying complex ideas. Great MOT in content and team formation – vision and practice. Long standing course – a way to re-centre for the present. Good for communicating with diocese – can be referred here. Question – how to follow through and keeping track on how being used – a living document. How will you gather feedback?