



Safeguarding Children Newsletter

CLOYNE DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN COMMITTEE

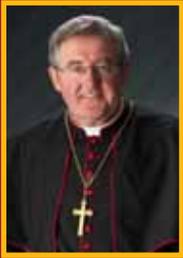


Issue No. 3 – Committed to Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Winter 2014

ADDRESS FROM BISHOP CREAN

Most Rev. William Crean, D.D.,



A Chairde,

The Diocese of Cloyne values and promotes the participation of children and young people in the life of their parish communities. Recognising their intrinsic dignity as children of God, it is committed to creating a respectful, caring, and safe environment in which their spiritual, emotional, and social development may be enhanced.

I welcome the publication of this newsletter by the Cloyne Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee, which is the fruit of much commitment and cooperation across the diocese. I thank the committee for the work it has done, and continues to do, to ensure the safety of children. In particular I wish to express my gratitude, and that of the whole diocese, to the outgoing chairman, Mr Con Lynch, whose dedication and commitment to the safeguarding of children in the diocese has been exceptional. Ms. Teresa Devlin the CEO of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in her

letter to me after our recent audit states "May I again take this opportunity to thank you for participating in this review and also congratulate you on the quality of the practice in your diocese"

So I take this occasion to thank the parish safeguarding representatives, the priests of the diocese, and the parish safeguarding committees for their work on the ground to ensure that the safeguarding policy is applied right across the diocese.

This newsletter brings us up to date concerning the various aspects of child safeguarding. It will be of invaluable help to all directly involved in this area and indeed to anyone seeking information on how child safeguarding is managed in Cloyne.

I commend all involved in compiling this newsletter, and pray God's blessing on all who work to ensure the safety of children in the Diocese of Cloyne.

† William Crean
Bishop of Cloyne

COMMENDATION FOR CLOYNE

The Review of Safeguarding Practices in the Diocese of Cloyne, conducted by The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church was generally positive and complimentary to the work of safeguarding children in the diocese and stated that the (2013) policy document is "well written" and "meticulous in its detail regarding the appropriate behaviours expected of any Church personnel who have dealings with children."

The reviewers stated that they were impressed by the "dedication and commitment" of CDSCC personnel and in a well deserved commendation to all members of the safeguarding team, DLP(s), priests and parish safeguarding representatives, the reviewers state that they were "impressed by the dedicated personnel, both clerical and lay persons, on whom the bishop can rely to implement safeguarding policies at both diocesan and parish level."

COMMITMENT OF A DIOCESE *Cloyne Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee*

The diocese has shown very strong commitment and spared no effort in putting in place all of the policies, procedures, training and education programmes, implementation and monitoring mechanisms and appropriately qualified personnel to ensure a safe, and caring environment for children in all aspects of Church life and activity. We are committed to creating

an environment in which children are cherished, valued as a gift from God, and their right to dignity and bodily integrity upheld. In this environment, their participation in all parish liturgies and in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development is welcomed, encouraged and affirmed.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN GARDA VETTING *by Rosarie O’Riordan*



The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 is scheduled to commence in early 2015. The Act will provide a legislative basis for the mandatory vetting of persons who wish to undertake certain work or activities relating to children or vulnerable persons. Electronic Garda Vetting (E-Vetting) is due to be introduced in line with this legislation.

List of those for whom garda vetting is required by the Catholic Diocese of Cloyne.

- Clergy, seminarians and religious who are available for ministry.
- Sacristans, Parish Safeguarding Representatives. Members of the Parish Safeguarding Children Committees.
- Leaders of Church activities/groups that involve children: e.g. choir leaders, prayer groups and distinct apostolic groups such as The Legion of Mary, Pioneers etc.
- All adult members of groups comprised of adults and children (under 18’s) including choirs, prayer groups, and other such groups including distinct apostolic groups such as The Legion of Mary, Pioneers, etc.

- All church personnel/ staff and volunteers who work with children in the You Shall Be My Witnesses Programme.
- Ministers of the Eucharist and/or others who minister to the sick or to vulnerable persons at venues outside of the church.
- Full-time or part-time staff and/or volunteers/ voluntary lay faithful in parishes with direct access to children or vulnerable persons.

This list is provided for guidance within parishes only and should not be interpreted as definitive or excluding other individuals or categories from a requirement of garda vetting.



Bishop William Crean with CDSCC members, Fr. Eugene Baker, Canon Gerry Casey, Con Lynch, Denis Ring, Tom Murray, Rosarie O’Riordan, Mary Corbett, and Una Relihan.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN NATIONAL POLICY

*by Teresa Devlin
CEO NBSCCCI*



During 2014 the National Board engaged in a wide ranging consultation exercise as part of the revision of the Church’s safeguarding standards. The original “Safeguarding Children, Standards and Guidance for the Catholic Church in Ireland” was adopted in 2009. Since then, in the light of practice, new guidance and developing changes to legislation, changes to that document are required.

Eight working groups have been established within the Catholic Church, to develop a one Church approach on child safeguarding as follows:

Overarching Policy (for use by all dioceses);

- Standard 1 – Creating Safe Environments
- Standard 2 – Responding to allegations of child abuse
- Standard 3 – Care for the Complainant (New Standard)
- Standard 4 – Care and Management of the respondent (New Standard)

- Standard 5 – Training and Support
- Standard 6 – Communicating the Safeguarding Message
- Standard 7 – Implementation and Monitoring

The Initial first draft standards have been written and are available for review. Following legal proofing (civil and canonical), consultation on the draft standards will take place with external bodies, including civil authorities, government agencies, interest groups, parents, complainants, respondents and children.

The draft standards will be presented to the Bishops’ Conference, the Conference of Religious and the Irish Missionary Union in March 2015 for their review. All comments will be sent back to NBSCCCI for a final revision and production of the new standards by June 2015.

If you would like to comment on the draft standards please contact me at the National Office on: teresa.devlin@safeguarding.ie

DEDICATED SAFEGUARDING OFFICE AND WEBSITE SUGGEST A STRONG COMMITMENT FROM THE DIOCESE



The dedicated Safeguarding Children Office and a dedicated Safeguarding Children Website, suggest strong commitment to creating a safe environment for children in all aspects of Church life and activity. The Safeguarding Children Office is located in Mallow Community Youth Centre and is managed by CDSCC Executive Secretary Ms. Rosarie O’Riordan. Support and advice is provided to parishes, training organised, documents published and garda vetting applications are processed by this office.

Contact details for the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Office:
Tel: 022/21009 or e-mail: safeguardingchildrenoffice@cloynediocese.ie

www.safeguardingchildrenclayne.ie

The dedicated safeguarding children website provides: information on the safeguarding structure, guidance on how to raise a concern, news, answers to frequently asked questions, policies and resources, application forms, publications including annual reports, the new Child Friendly Poster and the Information Poster for Children. **Do visit:** www.safeguardingchildrenclayne.ie

ACCOUNTABILITY: A BRIEF REPORT ON ACTIVITIES SINCE NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013

614 Trained by CDSCC since October 2013.

537 Church personnel, staff and volunteers attended training presented by teams from CDSCC at local level in 16 parishes. **9** attended accredited one day training courses for priests, parish safeguarding representatives, members of some religious orders and individuals with specific roles - including Bishop Crean. **42** attended a Safeguarding Children Information Session for the Lourdes Group.

24 attended training for Parish Safeguarding Committees in Buttevant Deanery. One additional trainer was trained for our diocese by NBSCCC. Training of altar servers was provided by parish personnel as new servers came on stream.

Policy: All policies were revised/updated including diocesan policies, Codes of behaviour...and Parish policy statement documents. *Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Cloyne (November 2014)* is the up to date policy and is available on: www.safeguardingchildrenclayne.ie.

Prevention: Recruitment and Selection: Application forms, references etc are currently being used for all Church personnel, staff and volunteers and garda vetting processed for specified individuals and roles.

Communicating the Church’s Safeguarding

Message: New safeguarding children posters were displayed at parish level.

New Child Friendly Posters and new Information Posters for Children circulated to all parishes.

The Second Biennial Safeguarding Conference was organised with Teresa Devlin CEO of NBSCCCI as principal speaker.

Consultation meetings for all priests were held 22/23 January 2014.

Linkage & Cohesion: meetings were held with HSE senior officials, HSE Community workers and there was ongoing contact with NBSCCCI, with other members of the diocesan safeguarding team, Bishop Crean, and with representatives of other dioceses at regional and national level.

Implementation and Monitoring:

At parish level: 42 Parish Safeguarding Committees were established and are working effectively with Parish Safeguarding Representatives to alleviate the safeguarding workload of the Parish Priest. The 2013 Parish Audit returns were analysed and Certificates of Full Compliance issued to 45 parishes. The 2014 Parish Audit – analysis is currently in progress. Annual Reports, Annual Audit Reports and reports on other issues were compiled.

MY EXPERIENCE OF A PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

by John Lyons



- (i) Having a parish safeguarding committee brings together the benefit of a broad range of competencies and experience and helps make more robust decisions.
- (ii) There is feeling of security/safety in having a committee involved.
- (iii) The committee's work has been very inclusive, with clergy and lay persons working together in a very positive way. A minimum of four meetings per year, or as required is not too demanding.
- (iv) The parish self audits have been most beneficial,

- raising issues for consideration and ensuring that nothing is overlooked.
- (v) Experience to date has shown that all committee members have shared different aspects of the work as part of a team, thus easing the burden on the Parish Priest, particularly when it comes to processing applications, follow up and training, related issues and record keeping.
- (vi) Another positive aspect of being involved is the beneficial feelings that arise from volunteering, as in any other group or organisation.

(Chairman of Macroom Parish Safeguarding Committee)

Recommendations Are Implemented

The recommendations of the Review into Safeguarding Practice in the Diocese of Cloyne, were accepted by the diocese as indicators for progressing safeguarding children work into the future.

Having discussed the recommendation with NBSCCCI, Bishop Crean, the Designated Liaison Person and with other relevant personnel, CDSCC implemented all recommendations relevant to its work and has sent a Report to Bishop Crean in this regard.

- CDSCC

VULNERABLE ADULTS NEED PROTECTION TOO!

by Tom Murray
CDSCC



An awareness of the vulnerability of a segment of the adult population seems to have been overlooked in the necessary rush to achieve maximum protection of children in the Church and in society. But adults with a mental disability are childlike and innocent too – to the extent of expecting and receiving a visit from the Man in Red at Christmas! They are so loving, open and welcoming to the point of naivety, that they seem easy targets for those who would prey on them.

Elderly people constitute another group of adults

who are vulnerable and defenceless against the unscrupulous in life. Anecdotally we've all heard stories of older people being abused – physically and financially – even by their own adult offspring.

These groups then which are so susceptible to abuse and injury, depend on us to keep them safe. As with all children as we say in our Policy Document, they have a right to be respected, to be cared for and nurtured and especially, to be protected and safeguarded.

Is it time then that as a very first step, our remit and that of NBSCCCI should be to Safeguard Children **and Vulnerable Adults?**

SLÁN AGUS BEANNACHT

Con Lynch



On 31st Dec, I will step down from the chairmanship of CDSCC a role to which I was appointed just over five years ago. During that time I was privileged to have witnessed the commitment of many priests and lay persons and the work that they did to fully implement the safeguarding policy and procedures of the diocese.

Policy making, reporting, prevention, communication, training, implementation and monitoring was carried

out relentlessly – tasks that involved hundreds of helpful volunteers. I thank them all and everyone who gave solid support.

Throughout these years, we have all been mindful of the suffering endured by victims/survivors of clerical sexual abuse, we have kept them in our prayers and worked diligently to ensure that the caring cherishing ethos of the Catholic Church would prevail perpetually throughout and thus ensure that never ever again would such suffering be visited on any child, anywhere in the Catholic Diocese of Cloyne.

TOWARDS HEALING is a free and confidential helpline and counselling referral service for survivors of clerical and religious abuse. Freephone: 1800 303 416 or E-mail: info@towardshealing.ie