



# Safeguarding Children Newsletter

CLOYNE DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN COMMITTEE

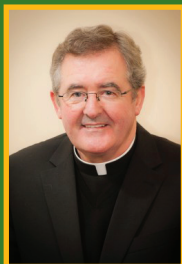


Issue No. 2 – Committed to Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Summer 2013

## ADDRESS FROM BISHOP CREAN

*Most Rev. William Crean, D.D.,*



I am delighted to avail of this opportunity to greet the parishioners of the Diocese through this newsletter. Straight away, I wish to endorse and encourage the hugely important task of safeguarding children in the Diocese and to offer my personal support to all who have suffered from any form of abuse.

I wish to reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that the standards of best practice are implemented to the full in every parish of the Diocese. To this end, I appeal to all personnel involved in executing the seven standards, to implement, uphold and rigorously re-check that all the requirements, as set out by the National Board for Safeguarding Children, are fulfilled in every parish. Having passed the recent audit required by the HSE, this Diocese must vigilantly sustain the expectations of such standards and not to grow lax or ambivalent to the constant and shifting needs of safeguarding children.

Among my earliest introductions to the personnel of the Diocese were Con Lynch and Rosarie O'Riordan,

respectively the Chairman and Secretary of the Cloyne Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee. I was truly heartened to hear of the extent of their work and that of the members of the Committee since its inception in 2004.

This newsletter continues to provide adults, children and other organisations with useful information about safeguarding children in the Diocese. The insert of the Reporting Flowchart, along with references to material available for download from the Diocesan Safeguarding website will prove very useful. The updates from the National Office in Maynooth are insightful and help keep the chain of communication in motion. I look forward to formally launching the Safeguarding website and to presenting certification to all the Parish Safeguarding Representatives who have completed their training.

Keeping children and vulnerable adults safe in the Catholic Church is an ongoing work. Let's continue to build and expand this work and ask the Lord who welcomed the little ones (Mt 19:14) to help us live this gospel imperative.

## FULL IMPLEMENTATION MAY HERALD A BRIGHT NEW DAWN

*Con Lynch*



By the end of 2012, full implementation of all relevant elements of diocesan policy in all forty six parishes had been achieved. During the two year period of implementation, CDSCC sought to make the Diocese of Cloyne

an exemplary 'bright light' in terms of safeguarding children provision and the following initiatives attest to our efforts in that regard:

- The Safeguarding Children Conference (Oct 2011).
- The Safeguarding Children Newsletter (2012).
- A dedicated safeguarding children office.
- A dedicated safeguarding children website ([www.safeguardingchildrenclayne.ie](http://www.safeguardingchildrenclayne.ie)).
- Dedicated notice boards for safeguarding children material in every church.
- Attendance registers in every sacristy.

Inspired with the progress that has been made we may now dare to hope that we as a people will break through the constricting confines of the current narrow 'safeguarding' focus. It is my fervent hope that from the fogs of multiple agendas, clouded perceptions and shallow, selective analyses, a new and brighter holistic child-centred vista will soon emerge. It is essential that this vista is informed by the indelible awareness of the suffering and pain endured by many, by their dire need for healing and support and by the debris of past destruction and awful disappointing letdown.

I hope and pray that this bright new era will result in boundless and new possibilities for comprehensively equipping children, in body, in mind and in spirit, to competently manage all of the wonders and challenges that the great and wonderful adventure of life will deal them.

## SAFEGUARDING FROM A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*Theresa Jones, Cobh*

I am the mother of five children and I was asked recently to put some thoughts together about how safe I felt my children were when attending Church and parish activities. Earlier, when the whole abuse scandal broke I would have to admit as a practicing Catholic to feeling a huge sense of disappointment, isolation and hopelessness. However, in recent years I have seen the continuous growth of safeguarding measures being put in place. This has given me a great sense of hope and confidence.

This year I was involved in the Parish Programme for Confirmation called 'You will be my Witnesses'. At the parents' training session we were taken through the policy document entitled 'Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Cloyne'. We agreed to these principles by signing the Volunteer Form.

I was very impressed with the Parish Activity Permission Form where it named the Parish Representative for safeguarding children and it gave me and other parents the freedom to contact him if I had any concerns. It also gave us the venue, the start and finishing times of the activities, the dates, and the people who co-ordinated the project. As a parent, I was asked to give my contact phone details for the duration of the project and any child participating in the course had to have the Parish Activity Form signed by a parent or guardian.

As a volunteer on this course, I experienced first-hand the full implementation of the Diocesan guidelines and I felt that, even if I wasn't involved myself, I was confident of the safety and supervision of my child.

## SAFEGUARDING OUR SCOUTS



My name is Cormac. I am 12 years old and a sixth class pupil at national school. I have many interests and hobbies including hurling, soccer and Scouting. I would like to tell you how we can all enjoy Scouting by

being well looked after by our Scout Leaders. They make sure we have a safe place for all our indoor and outdoor activities. We meet once a week on Fridays in the Scout Hall, at 7.30pm.

We recently held a County competition for the Scout Shield. There were eight Scouts and three adult Leaders. A number of forms had to be filled in before we went on this trip. My parents had to fill in a Permission Form and were asked to give details of any medical problems we might have like allergies to food. Also, my parents gave permission that if I got injured

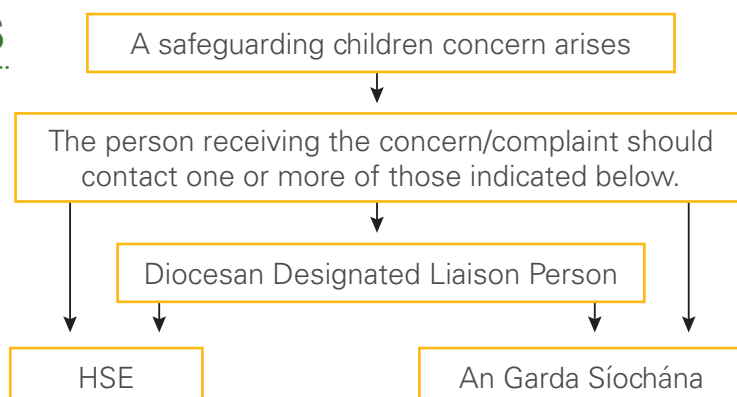
while camping the Leaders would be allowed to take me to hospital. Our Leaders make sure that nobody is bullied or badly treated during our Group sessions. A Scout always makes a public apology if he or she causes trouble for a fellow Scout.

I enjoy Scouting because we learn lots of new skills. I have made lots of new friends outside of my home place. We have our own games and when we go camping we have lots of fun around the camp fire. We are hoping to do very well in our national competition within Scouting called 'The Pheonix'. This will involve more camping and will happen in August. I feel very safe when I go camping with the Scouts. My Leaders do their very best to make sure that we are safe in all our activities and that no harm can come to us. For this reason I am happy to continue in Scouting for many years to come.

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

These procedures set out the action that must be taken by a Church staff/volunteer if any concern, allegation, suspicion or disclosure, relating to safeguarding children is made.

The flow chart outlines the overall reporting procedure.



## CLOYNE DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING WEBSITE

This website has been up and running for some months and contains many resourceful and informative materials. The outline below gives an overview of these resources. The address for the website is:

**[www.safeguardingchildrencloyne.ie](http://www.safeguardingchildrencloyne.ie)**

### Policies & Resources

- Cloyne Diocesan Policy
- Parish Policy
- Safeguarding Children Forms
- Support & Counselling
- Garda Vetting Process & Appeals

### Frequently Asked Questions

- Examples of difficulties frequently encountered at parish level

### Safeguarding Structure

- National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church
- National Case Management Reference Group
- Cloyne Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee
- How to Report a Concern
- Designated Liaison Persons

### Training

- Upcoming Training
- Safeguarding Children Trainers

## TRAINING PARISHIONERS IN BEST PRACTICE *Fr. Eugene Baker*



It has been an interesting few months since last October when I became a certified Trainer in Safeguarding Policy. Along with myself, there are two other Trainers in Cloyne Diocese; Claire O'Mahony and Rosarie O'Riordan.

All three of us are recognised and certified by the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC) which is based in Maynooth. Our role as Trainers is to ensure that those who assist in parish and congregational life are equipped with the knowledge and skills to keep children safe.

Since last year all three Trainers have co-led five training sessions in the Diocese. All of these sessions were held at the GAA complex in Mallow and there were around 130 participants in total. Most of those who came for Training in Safeguarding were Parish Representatives and it is reassuring to state that every Parish in the Diocese has a fully trained Representative in the new guidelines based on the Standards and Guidance Document from the NBSCCC. Some other participants involved in this training included members of the Bethany Bereavement Support Group, the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Blarney and the Presentation Sisters from the Nano Nagle Centre, Killavullen. It should also be noted that in

excess of 1000 parish volunteers have attended the Parish Information Sessions on Safeguarding Children; this equates to the visitation of around 41 parishes in the Diocese by members of the Safeguarding Committee who facilitated these information sessions.

The feedback from these training days was quite positive. While many participants felt there was a lot of theory to absorb in the detail of four types of child abuse, they generally felt better equipped to deal with the various challenges in ensuring a safe environment in which to work with children at Parish and Congregational level.

The NBSCCC in Maynooth received regular evaluations from ourselves as Trainers and we gave direction on how to improve the presentations focusing primarily on how to make the training day more efficient and enjoyable for all involved. It looks like there will be more and more demand for training in the new Guidelines on Safeguarding Children as many parish based organisations such as the Pioneers Assoc. and the St. Vincent de Paul are conscious of the roles they play in forming under eighteen year olds. The more adults that are trained to respond positively to any given situation, the better our children will enjoy being involved in parish activities.

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN INFORMATION



If you, or anyone you know, has a child safeguarding concern, or wishes to report an allegation of child abuse directly to Church Authorities, **please contact:**

### Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Phone Number: 086 036 8999

If you, or anyone you know, has a child safeguarding concern or, wishes to report an allegation directly to the Statutory Authorities, please contact the Garda or the Local HSE and ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker.

### HSE Offices:

Cobh / Midleton / Macroom: 021 492 7000. Mallow / Fermoy: 022 54100

## CLOYNE DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN COMMITTEE (CDSCC)



*Two new members of the committee are Tom Murray, Fermoy and Mary Corbett, Kanturk*

Cloyne Diocesan Children Safeguarding Office,  
Mallow Community Youth Centre, New Road,  
Mallow, Co. Cork.

**Email:** [safeguardingchildrenoffice@cloynediocese.ie](mailto:safeguardingchildrenoffice@cloynediocese.ie)

**Phone:** 022 21009

**Office Hours:** 9.00am – 3.00pm Monday – Thursday.

**Website:** [www.safeguardingchildrencloyne.ie](http://www.safeguardingchildrencloyne.ie)

**Committee Members:** Con Lynch, Rosarie O'Riordan, Una Relihan, Denis Ring, Canon Gerry Casey, Mary Corbett, Tom Murray, Fr. Eugene Baker.

## IAN ELLIOT PRAISES CLOYNE DIOCESE ON ITS ACHIEVEMENTS



Responding to the Annual Report for the year ended 2012, Ian Elliot congratulated the Chairperson of Safeguarding in Cloyne Diocese, Con Lynch and stated that "you and all the members of your Committee should feel proud of your achievement." Mr. Elliot agreed that the Annual Report is testament to success achieved through hard work and added, "I want to congratulate you all on it".

Mr. Elliot, has announced that he will be retiring from his post at the end of June after six "interesting years". Making the announcement in the April edition of the Board's Newsletter, he stated, "It is a matter of personal satisfaction that there has been so much positive development in

safeguarding in the Church in that time. It is my sincere hope also that this momentum will be continued in the months and years ahead". Archbishop Clifford on receiving the Report last February also praised the Cloyne Safeguarding Committee. He stated, "I am proud of your achievements". He also congratulated the members of the committee on the marvellous work done in the last four years. He asked that his appreciation be passed onto Fr. Jim Killeen, to CDYS Mallow, and "to the many priests who have given such sterling support to your important work".

The members of the Cloyne Diocesan Safeguarding Committee acknowledge the work done by Archbishop Clifford and Ian Elliot and they wish Ian every success in his future engagements.