



NATIONAL BOARD FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LAUNCHES NEW SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN TRAINING MODULES

Since the publication of "Safeguarding Children, Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland", the NBSCCCI has engaged in the process of developing a new modularised training programme to support the principles and standards contained therein.

After two years of consultation, planning, development and review the NBSCCCI have now launched their new modularised training programme. The training programme supports the seven standards of safeguarding in the Catholic Church.

To support the rollout and delivery of these new materials the NBSCCCI is creating a register of skilled and experienced trainers. The trainers will be supported by a network of tutors, two in each province, who will also monitor the quality of the delivery of training.

The Diocese of Elphin has two registered trainers with the NBSCCCI and a registered tutor and will begin to deliver the new modules from April 2012. These new modules will be delivered alongside the HSE Accredited Keeping Safe Training programme which will continue to be delivered across all parishes in the diocese as it has been for the last three years.

Safeguarding training, both Church and Statutory is an intrinsic part of safeguarding practice throughout Elphin diocese and the Diocese is fully committed to continue to make the appropriate training available to all key personnel who through their ministry have contact with children.

Diocese of Elphin SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN



IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

If you have a child protection concern or wish to report an allegation of child abuse please contact one of our Diocesan Designated Persons, who are responsible for receiving / managing concerns and complaints relating to safeguarding children that involve church personnel. Their names and contact details are as follows:



Mrs. Mary Nicholson

C/O St. Mary's,
Temple Street,
Sligo.
086 3750277



Fr. Ray Browne PP

Ballagh, Killrooskey,
Roscommon,
Co. Roscommon.
Tel: 0906 626273

If you have been the subject of abuse at the hands of Church personnel in the Diocese, please don't hesitate to contact us through one of the Designated Persons or by other means. The Diocese welcomes such contact.

FEEDBACK

The Diocese of Elphin values any feedback on its Safeguarding Children Policy & Procedures. Whether you are a member of Clergy, Staff, Volunteer, Parent, Young Person or Child all feedback is greatly appreciated and evaluated in our annual review of our Safeguarding Policies, Procedures, Structures and Practices. Please contact:



Frank McGuinness

Director of Safeguarding Children,
St. Mary's, Temple Street,
Sligo.
087 9880690

Diocese of Elphin SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN



NEWSLETTER

VOL 3: SPRING 2012

DIOCESAN POLICY STATEMENT

“Each child/young person is a gift from God and has an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity, which must be respected, nurtured and protected by all. We recognize the dignity and rights of every child/young person and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being.

The welfare of the child must always be paramount. We acknowledge that all who work with children/young people have a special duty of care towards them. Leaders must create a safe environment for children/young people in order to secure their protection and enable their full participation in the life of the Church.”



www.elphindiocese.ie/safeguarding-children



A WORD FROM THE BISHOP

The Diocese of Elphin continues its wholehearted commitment to Safeguarding Children. To date a significant amount of work and resources have been invested in the development of policy, procedures and structures that aim to ensure that best practice is

adhered to across all parishes and agencies in the Diocese.

Over the last twelve months our diocese through the Diocesan Safeguarding Office has continued its work in supporting parishes and agencies to ensure that their activities are in line with best practice. This involves among other things the continued rollout of training, in-service days for key personnel, raising-awareness sessions for parishes, reviews and regular correspondence on pertinent safeguarding matters.

This annual newsletter serves to provide updates on key developments that have taken place over the last year along with providing relevant contact details for those who may have any concerns or questions in this area.

I want to renew my heartfelt thanks to all who continue to participate in our Diocesan Safeguarding Structures, in particular to those who act in a voluntary capacity on our committees and as local safeguarding representatives in our parishes. This work would not be possible without their generosity.

I entrust the continuation of this indispensable work to the care and intercession of Our Lady, and pray for renewal of our Church especially among our young people.

+ Christopher Jones

Christopher Jones DD Bishop of Elphin



Implementation & Monitoring In-Service

During the month of November 2011 the Diocesan Office of Safeguarding Children hosted six separate evenings, one in each deanery area to help support parishes with their implementation and on-going monitoring of best practice in the area of Safeguarding Children. These evenings were specifically for Priests and Local Safeguarding Representatives and served to offer support on all matters related to our Safeguarding Children Diocesan Policy and Procedures. The Diocesan Safeguarding Office greatly appreciates the enormous amount of work done by Priests and Local Safeguarding Representatives as the Diocese continues to do everything it can to ensure that our church activities are safe for all concerned.

Safeguarding Training

During the last year HSE Accredited Keeping Safe Training was offered to key personnel in the deaneries of Sligo, Castlerea & Strokestown. Each deanery has now been offered this training over the last two years and the Diocesan Office of Safeguarding will continue to make this available to all who require it.

Review & Consultation

The Diocesan Office of Safeguarding is conducting a review of adherence to best practice in each parish of the diocese. Each parish has been issued with a consultation and review form which the Priest and Local Safeguarding Representative must complete and return. The consultation and review form outlines within each of the seven safeguarding standards what criteria must be in place in every parish, thus providing a mechanism whereby each parish is clear on what must be implemented and adhered to in order to be in line with best practice. The review and consultation findings will be included in the annual safeguarding report.

Disability Training Accreditation

Our two diocesan HSE Accredited Keeping Safe Trainers recently received accreditation in disability training and are now in a position to deliver training on this component to any church personnel who wish to avail of it. Training on disability and inclusivity in all church activities is an intrinsic part of safeguarding children and is indispensable when communicating the Church's safeguarding message. This is an important addition to our training programme and greatly welcomed.

Safe Recruitment Developments

Each parish has been asked to identify all lay personnel who through their involvement in church activities have substantial unsupervised contact with children. These people will include supervisors of altar servers, youth choir leaders, etc. Those identified are obliged to submit for Garda Vetting and sign a Self-Declaration form as per our diocesan safeguarding policy on recruitment and selection of volunteers. All clergy and lay employees of the diocese have been Garda Vetted and have signed a Self-Declaration form in line with Statutory and Church guidelines.

Launch of Children First 2011

On the 15th of July 2011, Ms Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs launched Children First 2011. This statutory guidance promotes the protection of children from abuse and neglect. It states what organisations need to do to keep children safe, and what different bodies and the general public should do if they are concerned about a child's safety and welfare. The Guidance sets out specific protocols for HSE social workers, Gardaí and other front line staff in dealing with suspected abuse and neglect. This document supersedes the 1999 edition and reflects new policy, legislation and organisation – the establishment of the HSE, HIQA, and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.