

Diocese of Kilmore

Safeguarding Children Newsletter

May 2012

A word from the Bishop



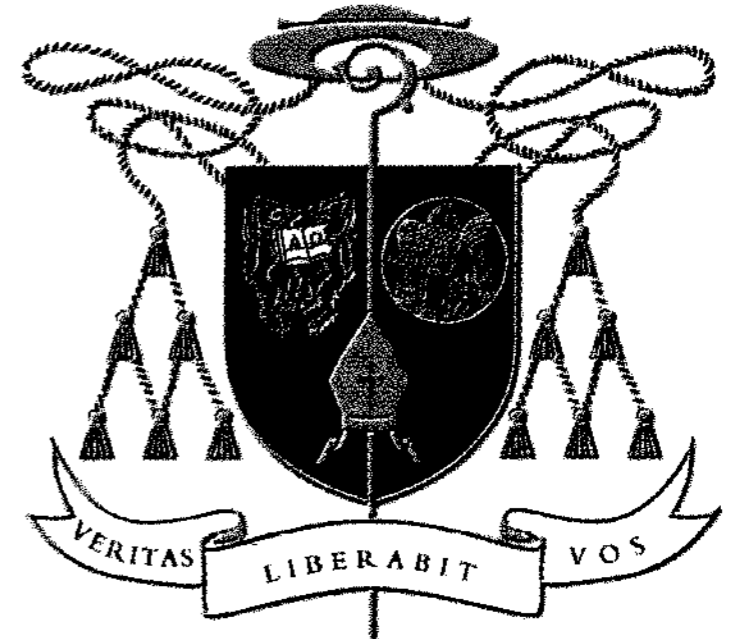
The work of safeguarding children has become central to our pastoral ministry. It gives expression to our policy of valuing and encouraging the participation of children in parish and diocesan activities. This Newsletter is being published to coincide with the launch of the revised and updated diocesan policy manual,

Safeguarding Children In The Diocese Of Kilmore. It also provides updated information in relation to personnel, contact numbers and other matters.

We are a small diocese but nevertheless we have more than two hundred volunteers working in the area of safeguarding children. All of these have attended training programmes to equip them for their work. This has meant a huge commitment of time and talents in the service of the Church's ministry in this important sphere. This is a wonderful example of lay participation in the life of the Church at its best.

I would like to record my deep gratitude to all those who have come forward on a voluntary basis to assist in providing this service in the Diocese: the members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee; the Diocesan Advisory Panel; the Coordinator of Child Safeguarding Training and the Trainers; the Diocesan Designated Persons and the Support People; and finally at parish level, the Priests, the Parish Child Safeguarding Representatives, and the Parish Recruitment Committees. All of these have given a huge commitment to putting these policies and structures in place. It is my fervent prayer that these policies will assist us in ministering to children and young people in ways that will enhance their physical, emotional and spiritual growth within the safe and welcoming environment of the Christian community.

Leo O'Reilly,
Bishop of Kilmore.



POLICY STATEMENT

We in the Diocese of Kilmore value and encourage the participation of children and young people in all diocesan and parish activities promoting their spiritual, emotional, physical and social development. Recognising the dignity and rights of all children we will undertake to do all in our power to create a safe environment for children and young people in order to facilitate their full participation in the life of the Church. Our children's welfare is paramount. All Church personnel are expected to comply with the diocesan safeguarding procedures and policies.



The NBSCCC undertook a review of safeguarding practice in six dioceses in the country during 2010 and their findings were published on 30th November 2011. The Diocese of Kilmore was one of the six dioceses reviewed. The focus of the reviews was to assess current risk and an examination of the safeguarding framework in each diocese. The reviews do not set out to provide a detailed analysis of past practice but concentrate on scrutinising the current situation.

Why use Standards?

Meeting the Standards will protect:

- Children by ensuring that they are in a safe environment and minimising risk of abuse to them.
- Church personnel by clarifying how they are expected to behave with children and what to do if there are allegations and suspicions about the safety of a child.
- The integrity of the Church and its mission by making clear its commitment to keeping children safe and by modelling best practice.

The Standards should be used by all Church organisations (e.g. diocese, parishes, religious, institutions, seminaries) and personnel (e.g. clergy, religious, lay employees or volunteers).

Guiding Principles

All children have a fundamental right to be respected, nurtured, cared for and protected. This right is embedded in Gospel values, best practice guidelines and international and domestic laws. In the light of the teaching of the Church, civil legislation and guidance, every part of the Church must be committed to taking the necessary steps to:

- Demonstrate that the right of the child to protection from harm is paramount.
- Cherish and safeguard children and young people.
- Foster best practice.
- Demonstrate accountability through establishing effective structures.
- Support Church organisations and personnel in safeguarding children.
- Establish safe recruitment and vetting practices – aimed at preventing those who pose a risk to children from holding positions of trust.
- Maintain codes of conduct – having clear guidelines that set out what is and is not acceptable conduct as an essential part of keeping children safe.
- Operate safe activities for children – helping ensure they can play and learn in a safe environment.
- Responding promptly and effectively to all allegations and suspicions of abuse of a child (historical and current).

What are the Seven Standards?

The Seven Standards are outlined below to assist Church groups in their understanding and implementation of the standards in practice.

Standard 1:

A written policy on keeping children safe

Each child should be cherished and affirmed as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity which shall be respected, nurtured and protected by all.

Standard 2

Procedures – how to respond to child protection allegations and suspicions

Children have a right to be listened to and heard. They have a right to live free from abuse. Church organisations have a duty to promote the safety and welfare of children. The Diocese of Kilmore ensures that all concerns, allegations and suspicions of abuse are reported both within the Church and to civil authorities.

Standard 3:

Preventing harm to children

Children should have access to good role models they can trust, who will respect and nurture their spiritual, physical and emotional development. They also have a right to an environment free from abuse and neglect.

Standard 4:

Training and education for keeping children safe

All Church personnel should be offered training in safeguarding children to maintain high standards and good practice.

Standard 5:

Communicating the Church's safeguarding message

Children are welcomed, cherished and protected in a manner consistent with their central place in the life of the Church.

Standard 6:

Access to advice and support

Those who have suffered child abuse should receive a compassionate and just response and should be offered appropriate pastoral care to rebuild their lives. Those who have harmed others should be helped to face up to the reality of abuse, as well as being assisted in healing.

Standard 7:

Implementing and monitoring the Standards

To keep children safe, policies, procedures and plans have to be implemented across all Church organisations. Checks are needed to ensure this is happening consistently. The views of those involved inside and outside of Church organisations can help to improve the effectiveness of any measures taken.

New Training Modules developed by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC)

The NBSCCC has produced new training modules designed to outline the seven standards and raise awareness of the standards as they apply to each Diocese and Religious Congregation. The NBSCCC has trained the two diocesan trainers in these modules who will continue to roll out the training in the diocese to all new diocesan and parish safeguarding children personnel. The two diocesan trainers are Lucy Uí Mhórdha and Suzie Duffy.

Parish Self Audit Tools

The self audit tool is designed to help parishes think about the safeguarding systems they have in place which are in keeping with the seven standards set out in the NBSCCC Standards and Guidance Document. This is to monitor the practice in parishes and it is hoped that the information collated from the audits will offer a reasonable picture of what each parish has achieved and what still needs to be put in place. Parishes will be asked to complete a self audit annually. A summary of the information will be kept in the diocesan safeguarding office and also sent to the national office in Maynooth.

Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee

The committee which is currently chaired by Ms. Teresa Carroll, was appointed by the Bishop in 2005 to work on his behalf to develop, direct and manage all aspects of policy development and training and also to support parishes within the context of best practice for ministry within the Diocese. The committee has also been working on procedures for safeguarding children. The Committee has been able to carry out its tasks through the work of the safeguarding children trainers in the Diocese.

Co-ordinator and Trainers

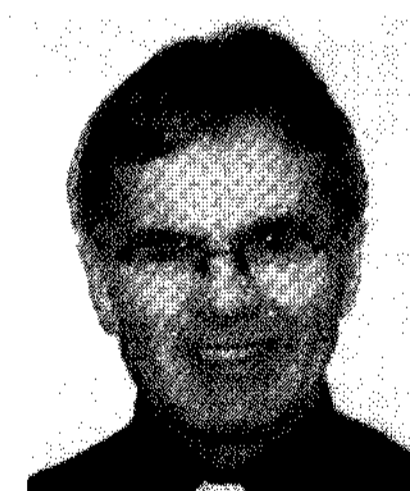
The co-ordinator of safeguarding children is Suzie Duffy and it is her responsibility to co-ordinate the overall work of the safeguarding office. Along with the other trainer, Lucy Uí Mhórdha, the co-ordinator is responsible for delivering training on and raising awareness of safeguarding in theory and practice. Suzie and Lucy work on behalf of the diocesan safeguarding committee in training and policy development for parish ministry and pastoral activities. Since 2007 they have provided training throughout the diocese for clergy, parish safeguarding children representatives, parish recruitment committees, pastoral assistants, support people, diocesan advisors, permanent deacons and clerical students. Since November 2010 they have trained the above safeguarding children personnel in the seven standards of the NBSCCC.

Diocesan Designated Persons

The designated persons are appointed by the Bishop to receive any complaint of child abuse by church personnel. They are: Suzie Duffy and Fr. Séan Mawn. Their role is to: provide information and advice, receive concerns and complaints, inform the Bishop and the Advisory Panel of concerns or complaints, inform the Gardaí / PSNI, the HSE/ HSCE and the NBSCCC, make appropriate referrals and maintain confidential records.



Suzie Duffy



Fr Sean Mawn

Parish Recruitment Committees

The parish recruitment committee is a subgroup of the parish pastoral council and will consist of at least three people – the chair of the parish pastoral council, the parish priest or his nominee, the parish child safeguarding representative and one other person if necessary, for gender balance. The committee is responsible for overseeing the selection of volunteers and staff engaged in the parish.

Parish Safeguarding Children Representatives

Each parish has a child safeguarding representative whose role it is to develop awareness in the parish of best practice issues in working with children and young people who are involved in Church activities. The representatives have attended training in the seven standards of the NBSCCC and in turn work in their parishes to help provide information on these national guidelines, diocesan policies and procedures. They also ensure that the contact details of safeguarding children personnel are made known within the parish.

**Review by the NBSCCC of
Safeguarding Practice in the
Kilmore Diocese**

The NBSCCC undertook a review of safeguarding practice in six dioceses in the country during 2010 and their findings were published on 30th November 2011. The Diocese of Kilmore was one of the six dioceses reviewed. The focus of the reviews was to assess current risk and an examination of the safeguarding framework in each diocese. The reviews do not set out to provide a detailed analysis of past practice but concentrate on scrutinising the current situation.

“The reviews show improvements in the attitude to and understanding of child protection in those dioceses’, according to NBSCCC CEO, Ian Elliott. “Most importantly,” he stated, “I found improvement in the area of implementation of systems to ensure child protection.” The NBSCCC also found marked improvements in the prompt notification of the statutory authorities. “The attitude of these dioceses and their Bishops in the implementation of the guidelines, engagement with the review process and participation in NBSCCC training that the NBSCCC provides, has been good,” said Ian Elliott. “And it is important to note that much of the work here is being undertaken by volunteers, indicating an even wider commitment.”

In the review of the Diocese of Kilmore, Ian Elliott writes ‘the overall view of current practice is that it is of a consistently high standard. In many respects, the Diocese of Kilmore may be viewed as a model of best practice within the Church in this critical area. To a significant extent, this is seen as a consequence of the personal commitment and diligence of Bishop O’Reilly who demonstrated a willingness to lead others and to address safeguarding concerns when they arose. For this he should be commended’.

The review can be downloaded from

www.kilmorediocese.ie

or

www.safeguarding.ie

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN CONTACT DETAILS

Designated Officers:

Delegates appointed by the Bishop to receive any Complaint of Child Abuse by Church Personnel.

Suzie Duffy,

Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Cavan, Co. Cavan.
Tel. 049 - 4375004, ext 105.
Email: safeguardingchildren@kilmorediocese.ie

Fr. Sean Mawn,

Parochial House, Ballinaglera, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.
Tel. 071 - 9643014.

Towards Healing - Counselling & Support for Survivors of Abuse:

Republic of Ireland - Freephone 1800 303416.
Northern Ireland - Freephone 0800 0963315.
E-mail: info@towardshealing.ie
Website: www.towardshealing.ie

HSE:

Cavan / Monaghan -
Health Care Unit, Rooskey, Co. Monaghan.
Tel. 047 - 30400 / 30426/ 30427.
Child and Family Services, Drumalee, Cavan, Co. Cavan.
Tel. 049 - 4377305 / 306.

Louth -

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Co. Louth.
Tel. 041 - 9875282.
Ballsgrove Health Centre, Drogheda, Co. Louth.
Tel. 041 - 9833163.
Wilton House, Stapleton Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
Tel. 042 - 9392220.

Meath -

Child and Family Centre, Navan, Co. Meath.
Tel. 046 - 9030616 / 608.

Sligo / Leitrim -

Community Services, Markievicz House, Sligo, Co. Sligo.
Tel. 071 - 9155133.
Duty Social Worker, Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.
Tel. 071 - 9650324 / 9120062.

Child Abuse Investigation Unit:

48 Queen Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.
Tel. 048-66321562.

Gateway Team, Derry:

(Mon-Thurs 9.00am - 5.00pm, Fri 9.00am-4.30pm)
Tel. 048-71314090.

Erne Hospital: (out of hours & weekends)
Cornagrade Road, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.
Tel. 048-66382000.

NSPCC Helpline: Tel. 0808-8005000.

Gardaí:

Cavan Garda HQ - Tel. 049 - 4368800.
Monaghan Garda HQ - Tel. 047 - 77200.
Navan Garda HQ - Tel. 046 - 9079930.
Sligo Garda HQ - Tel. 071 - 9157000.
Dundalk Garda HQ Tel. 042 - 9388400.
Det. Superintendent John McCann / Det.
Inspector Declan Daly, Tel. 01 - 6663430.
National Bureau of Criminal Investigation,
Harcourt Square, Dublin 2. Tel. 01 - 6663436.

PSNI:

Queen Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.
Tel. 048-56008000/66322823.

National Office for Safeguarding Children:

New House, St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Tel: 01 - 5053124.

Website: www.safeguarding.ie