

Diocese of Kilmore

www.kilmorediocese.ie

Safeguarding Children Newsletter May 2013

Message from Bishop O'Reilly



Since our last Safeguarding Children Conference in May 2012 the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee completed its term. For most of the members that was their second term on the committee and I thank them most sincerely for their long and dedicated service as committee members to the work of safeguarding children in the diocese. I welcome the members of the new committee (see membership below) and thank them for their willingness

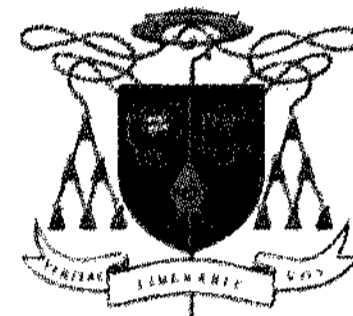
to take on this important work. I wish them every blessing and success in it.

I also want to thank and pay tribute to the 200 volunteers working in the area of safeguarding children in the diocese. This includes clergy, parish safeguarding children representatives, parish recruitment committees, chairs of parish pastoral councils, pastoral assistants, candidates for permanent diaconate, diocesan advisors, Lourdes

pilgrimage leaders, advisory panel members, care persons, diocesan trainers and coordinator of safeguarding. Since September 2012 thirty four new parish representatives have been appointed and trained. Twenty two representatives are in their second term of office. Also since September 2012 twenty one new chairs of parish pastoral councils have been appointed and trained. Fourteen chairs are in their second term of office. All of these represent a huge commitment to care of and ministry to children and a wonderful example of lay participation in the life of the Church at its best.

Our new policy manual is now a year in use and has proved a very valuable resource in all our parishes and activities with children. Our policies are regularly updated in the light of new developments or guidelines and new policies are included as they become available. It is my fervent wish that these policies will assist us in ministering to children and young people in ways that will enhance their physical, emotional and spiritual growth as they take part in Church activities.

Leo O'Reilly,
Bishop of Kilmore.



New Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee



Back row L-R: J.J. Reilly, James Conaty, Fr Dermot Prior, Christy Dooley (chair).
Front row L-R: Rita Martin, Kathleen Curry (secretary), Suzie Duffy, Jo Devlin, Lucy Ui Mhordha.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee is appointed by Bishop Leo O'Reilly to work on his behalf to develop, direct and manage all aspects of policy implementation, training and support for parishes within the diocese. The committee consists of eight persons from various backgrounds and fields of expertise all of whom give of their services voluntarily. The committee hold meetings usually five or six per year and the meetings are attended by our diocesan trainers Suzie Duffy and Lucy Ui Mhordha who act in an advisory role to the committee. The committee is responsible for ensuring to the best of its ability that the

diocese has the necessary mechanisms in place to implement safeguarding children guidelines based on civil guidance and national church guidelines. It has particular responsibility to develop and implement diocesan guidelines to promote child safety and welfare within parish ministry and pastoral activities. The committee wish to express sincere gratitude to all you parish safeguarding children representatives and volunteers who give freely of your time, energy and enormous commitment to this very important work in our parishes. As we go forward the committee would urge you all to continue the very good work already in progress.

Diocesan 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 policies and procedures. The diocesan safeguarding children manual can be downloaded from: www.kilmorediocese.ie

Parish Safeguarding Children Representative

Each parish in the diocese has at least one safeguarding children 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 and in turn work in their parishes to help disseminate information on national guidelines and diocesan policies and procedures. They also ensure that

contact details for safeguarding children personnel are made known within the parish. Since September 2012 thirty four new parish safeguarding representatives have been appointed and trained and twenty two safeguarding children representatives have started their second term of office. The safeguarding children representative is a member of the parish pastoral council and also a member of the parish recruitment committee.

Managing an Allegation or Concern

Once information about a concern or allegation has been made to the diocesan designated person, she must inform the Bishop and ensure that the procedures about how to manage such concerns and allegations are being followed. This involves referring the matter to the civil authorities and conducting an initial interview with the person accused (the respondent) as soon as possible. The respondent is given information about his or her entitlement to seek legal advice (both civil and canonical), and about the child safeguarding process. The respondent is informed that he/she is not obliged, in law, to respond or to furnish evidence, but that any statement provided will be taken into account in the investigation.

The designated person and the Bishop then inform the respondent of the nature and detail of the allegation or concern and the name of the person raising it. The respondent needs to be given enough detail about the allegation or concern and the person raising it, to be able to offer a response. The respondent shall be offered the services of an Advisor whose role is to assist with communication between the accused and the designated person (SGD pg.59). A written record of the interview is kept, signed and dated. (SGD pg. 85).

The Advisory Panel (SGD pg.56) is convened to discuss the case and to advise the Bishop on what is considered the appropriate course of action. The identity of the

complainant or the respondent is not revealed to members of the advisory panel.

A preliminary Church investigation follows and the respondent may be requested to stand aside from ministry while the investigation is in progress.

The Church investigation is suspended until the Garda investigation has concluded.

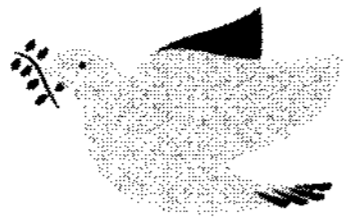
The respondent and complainant is kept informed of the progress of the investigation and records are maintained of such communications. (SGD pg. 84-88).

Note: given the complexities of some allegations, this process can be lengthy and may take some time to complete.

Anonymous allegations: These are recorded and dealt with in so far as possible. If eventually the name of the person making the allegation becomes known, the above procedure is applied.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality is respected. Information about individuals, on a need-to-know basis only, will be shared where there is a concern about child safety.

SGD – Standards & Guidance Document: National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church.



TOWARDS HEALING

A Catholic Church response to Clerical/Religious abuse

Freephone **1800 303416** (Rep. of Ireland)

Freephone **0800 0963315** (Northern Ireland and UK)

E-mail: **info@towardshealing.ie**

Website: **www.towardshealing.ie**

About

Towards Healing is a new Counselling and Support Service for survivors of Institutional, Clerical and Religious abuse, funded by the Catholic Church. It replaces the Faoiseamh Counselling Service which has been in operation since 1997, and which has provided face-to-face counselling to over 4,000 persons during that time, as well as Helpline Support to over 15000 survivors

of Institutional, Clerical and Religious Abuse. The services provided by Towards Healing will be developed in consultation with representatives of Survivors, and will include healing meetings, group work, practical workshops and a bridging service designed to link clients to services relevant to their needs.

Service

Towards Healing provides the following services to our clients:

- Towards Healing Telephone Helpline operates on Mondays, and Wednesdays, from 11am to 8pm, and on Friday's from 11am to 4pm.
- We have a mobile number for texting purposes for our hearing impaired service users: 085-8022859.
- 80 sessions of once weekly individual face to face counselling for survivors, their partners, parents, children and siblings.
- 12 sessions of couple/family therapy counselling.
- Group therapy with prior agreement of the Clinical Director.
- Contribution towards travel expenses accompanied by a medical certificate where the need arises, to be approved in advance by a Case Manager.

News from the NBSCCC

Training Manager appointed to the National Office:

The National Office has appointed Mr Niall Moore as new Training Manager. His role is to oversee all aspects of Safeguarding Training within the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Leave and restriction from Sacred Ministry:

New guidance on leave and restriction from Sacred Ministry and Apostolate for clergy and

religious has been published by the National Board. To view visit www.safeguarding.ie

Mr Ian Elliott retires:

Ian Elliott will be retiring as CEO of the NBSCCC in June 2013. We thank him most sincerely for his commitment to safeguarding children and deeply appreciate his guidance and support to the diocese during his six years in office. We wish him every blessing in his retirement.

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 Gardai / PSNI, the HSE / DHSSPS and the NBSCCC, make appropriate referrals and maintain confidential records



Suzie Duffy



Fr Séan Mawn

Safeguarding Children Contacts

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

All other diocesan contacts visit: www.kilmorediocese.ie

National Office for Safeguarding Children
New House, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Tel. 01 - 5053124.
www.safeguarding.ie



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