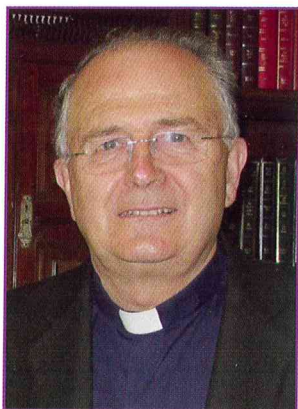


Diocese of Kilmore

www.kilmorediocese.ie

Safeguarding Newsletter May 2015

Message from Bishop Leo O'Reilly



I welcome the publication of our annual Safeguarding Newsletter for 2015. This year the focus is on developments in relation to the safeguarding of **vulnerable adults**, while continuing to highlight relevant issues in regard to safeguarding children. Awareness of the importance of policies and procedures for safeguarding of vulnerable adults is comparatively recent and great

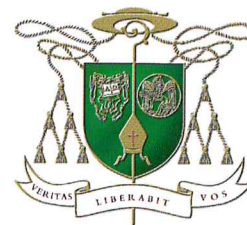
credit must be given to Cardinal Brady for his initiative in responding promptly and effectively to new developments in this area.

In 2011 Cardinal Sean stated that a One-Church, All-Ireland policy for safeguarding adults was now needed. He was speaking in the context of new provisions in civil law in both jurisdictions in Ireland and of developments also in canon (Church) law. Legislation was introduced concerning vulnerable adults in Northern Ireland in 2007. In Church law, the 'Norms for Serious Crimes' (2001) of Pope John Paul II were updated to include crimes against vulnerable adults in 2010. Since the Cardinal's statement two pieces of legislation in the Republic of Ireland have been introduced. They are the 'National Vetting Bureau Act 2012' (children and vulnerable persons) and the 'Criminal Justice Act 2012'

(withholding of information of offences against children and vulnerable persons). As a result of this there is now a legal definition for a vulnerable adult both in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland and also in Canon Law. This has enabled us to formulate policy and procedures and I welcome this development and want to thank most sincerely all those who have been involved in compiling the Kilmore Vulnerable Adult Policy.

Once again I want to thank and pay tribute to the 200 volunteers working in the area of safeguarding in the diocese. This includes clergy, parish safeguarding representatives, parish recruitment committees, chairs of parish pastoral councils, pastoral assistants, candidates for the permanent diaconate, diocesan advisers, Lourdes pilgrimage leaders, diocesan support persons, diocesan trainers, diocesan designated liaison persons and the diocesan coordinator of safeguarding. I also wish to thank our very hardworking diocesan committee for safeguarding and our advisory panel for case management. All of these represent a huge commitment to the care of and ministry to children and vulnerable adults and are a wonderful example of lay participation in the life of the Church at its best. May the risen Lord bless and prosper the good work.

Leo O'Reilly,
Bishop of Kilmore.



POLICY STATEMENT

The diocese is committed to safeguarding as an integral component of the life and ministry of the church and recognises that we have a special responsibility towards all vulnerable people who are members of our faith community. We want to reassure them, their carers and their advocates, that we are committed to creating a safe, caring and compassionate environment for all but especially those parishioners defined as "vulnerable". This commitment is based on Gospel values and teachings and compliance with "best practice." The Diocesan Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Guidelines can be downloaded from:

www.kilmorediocese.ie



NBSCCC's 1st National Conference

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church held its first National Conference in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone on 27th & 28th February 2015. Archbishop Eamon Martin delivered the opening address. Speakers at the conference included Mgr. Steve Rossetti, who gave the keynote address, Mgr. Robert Oliver and Marie Collins, who delivered a presentation on the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. Melissa Darmody from Towards Healing spoke about Caring for Survivors and Teresa Devlin, CEO, delivered a presentation on the revised safeguarding standards. Two young people, Matthew Keown and Euan Lindsay gave a presentation on how the Church engages with young people in creating safe environments. All presentations can be read in full on www.safeguarding.ie

OUR DUTY TO CARE FOR CHILDREN Applying guidelines in an intelligent and informed manner.

Recently a woman remarked that 'safeguarding rules' made it impossible to work with children. She gave the example of organising an overnight activity in a hall. The adults, she said, are not supposed to sleep in the same room as the children but the hall consists of one big room, apart from a kitchen and bathrooms, neither of which would be suitable for adults to sleep in. When asked how the problem had been addressed, she said that the leaders had erected dividers in the hall, thus separating the sleeping areas of the children and the adults. This, it was suggested to the woman, represented an intelligent and informed application of the guidelines. Such guidelines were never intended to assume the status of inflexible rules.

There are certain things we must never do, such as hit a child or humiliate him/her. Guidelines relating to matters such as supervision ratios and not being alone with a child have to be applied with discernment, taking account of the particular circumstances of the situation to which they are being applied. There will be times when it is appropriate and indeed necessary to his/her safety to speak to a child alone. If we allow guidelines to become inflexible rules we risk bringing about a situation in which we end up doing things that are not in a child's interest. It can never be right not to offer to assist a child who is obviously in distress because, for example, there is no other person around and we fear that our intentions could be misconstrued. There are always ways to overcome such challenges if we really want to do so. Most people carry mobile phones so contacting a third party relatively quickly is never that difficult.

Our contact with children should be informed by two

fundamental principles: transparency and accountability. Transparency is being open about what we are doing in our contacts with children and, wherever possible, being visible to others when we are with them. In this context the opposite of transparency is secrecy. Secrecy is not the same as confidentiality. We can be transparent in our contacts with children, even as we hold confidential information about them. We should not have secret contact with children.

The other key principle is accountability. We ought to be able to give an account of our contacts with children, including the reasons why we do things in the way that we do. An example is where a leader took a child into his tent during a camping trip. His daughter was also present and the reason for his action was that very heavy rain caused some of the tents to become flooded. He took the decision that he could better look after the child in question by having her in his tent with his daughter, rather than by leaving her in a wet tent. It was a reasonable decision and the man was somewhat taken aback when the child's parent asked him about it. He felt that the parent ought to have assumed he was acting in the child's best interests. Parents, however, do not protect their children by making assumptions about the intentions of other adults. It is right that they should ask questions. We should only depart from accepted safeguarding practice when there are very clear reasons for doing so and we should always be ready to give an account of ourselves when we do so. Good safeguarding practice, it is often said, is protective of adults as well as children. This is true but we must bear in mind that the priority is the protection of children, not the protection of ourselves. Our responsibility as adults is to care for and protect children. That is our duty.

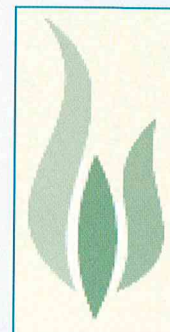
Vetting Legislation

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 will come into effect this year. The purpose of the Act is to provide a legislative basis for vetting. While it is current policy in our diocese that all staff / volunteers working with children submit themselves for Garda Vetting, the Act will make vetting mandatory for all persons working in a "relevant work or activity" relating to children or vulnerable persons. Under the new legislation the diocese/parish cannot employ or permit any person to undertake relevant work or activities with children or vulnerable adults until they have been vetted.

NBSCCC New Standards

Since early 2014 the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church has been reviewing its Standards and Guidance document on safeguarding children. The board has consulted widely with dioceses, Tusla, DHSSPSNI, An Garda Síochána, PSNI, Towards Healing, survivors of abuse, One in Four, priests and religious accused of abuse, parents and children. Eight working groups were convened and as a consequence the following documents have been produced:

- Overarching Child Safeguarding Policy for the Catholic Church in Ireland.
- Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments.
- Responding and reporting allegations.
- Care of the Complainant.
- Care and Management of the Respondent.
- Training and Support.
- Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message.
- Implementation and Monitoring.



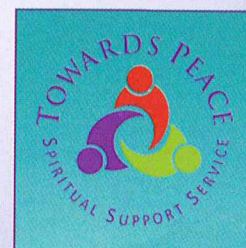
It is hoped that the final document will be available to dioceses and religious congregations in September 2015 with training and induction delivered by the NBSCCC from July to December 2015.

Towards Peace

Abuse which is perpetrated by representatives of the Church can cause spiritual damage to its victims as well as psychological harm. Those who have been abused often find that their faith in God has been seriously affected. *Towards Peace* is an agency that was set up to respond to the need some survivors experience to find healing for the spiritual wounds they have suffered. *Towards Peace* supports and respects the needs of those survivors who wish to embark on a spiritual journey. There is no pre-determined road map for this journey. Each person starts at a different point and walks at a different pace towards deeper peace.

Contact Details

Towards Peace,	Tuesday – Thursday	01 5053028.
Columba Centre,	10am – 1pm.	086 7710533.
St. Patrick's College,	2pm – 4pm.	E-mail: towardspeace@iecon.ie
Maynooth,		Website: www.towardspeace.ie
Co. Kildare.		



Towards Healing

Towards Healing provides counselling and support to survivors of religious, institutional and clerical abuse and to their families. It is funded by the Catholic Church. To avail of this service call *Towards Healing* on the free phone and talk to one of the telephone counsellors. They will explain the process and make every effort to secure the best therapist to meet the needs of the caller. *Towards Healing* is staffed by professional, lay people. The clinical team are all therapists with experience of working with survivors.

Freephone 1800 303416 (Rep. of Ireland)
0800 0963315 (Northern Ireland and UK)
E-mail: info@towardshealing.ie
Website: www.towardshealing.ie



Update from the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Since this time last year the diocesan safeguarding committee continued to review and update policies and procedures regarding safeguarding children. They have updated the emergency plan, the accident / incident form, the staff / volunteer reference form, the parish representative reference form, the parish audit form, the Garda vetting form, the parent consent for Garda vetting, the anti-bullying policy, the away trips consent & guidance, the ROI identification documents, the letter of appointment, the letter of acknowledgement, renting of halls form and the check list for recruitment. These policies, procedures and updated forms have been distributed to all safeguarding children personnel in the diocese. They are being reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.

The remit of the committee was extended in September 2014 to include the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and three new members with expertise in the area were co-opted

onto the committee. To reflect this new reality, going forward, the 'Diocesan Safeguarding Children Committee' will be known as the 'Diocesan Safeguarding Committee'. This change will also apply to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and the Parish Safeguarding Representatives. Training to underpin the policy was delivered by Volunteer Now training agency in November 2014 and in April 2015. Over one hundred people with key safeguarding roles with vulnerable adults attended the training. Volunteer Now is a specialised training agency based in Belfast which provides training for keeping children and vulnerable adults safe. Information sessions to inform other personnel such as parish representatives and Eucharistic ministers about the policy will be delivered during the summer and autumn. The diocesan safeguarding children policy and the diocesan safeguarding vulnerable adults guidelines can be downloaded from: www.kilmorediocese.ie

Diocesan Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Liaison Persons:

Suzie Duffy,
Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Cavan, Co. Cavan.
Tel. 049 - 4375004, ext 105.
Email: safeguarding@kilmorediocese.ie
Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie

Fr Séan Mawn,
Convent Road, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.
Tel. 071 - 9644039.

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

HSE

The HSE has a dedicated Elder Abuse Service, with Senior Case Workers now working in most Local Health Office Areas.
You can seek advice from the HSE Information Line -
Monday to Saturday: 8am – 8pm.
Call Save: 1850 24 1850
Email: info@hse.ie

Tearman

Support Organisation for those suffering from Domestic Violence in the Cavan and Monaghan areas, HSE Primary Care Building, Rooskey, Monaghan Tel: 047 72311

For all other diocesan contacts visit - www.kilmorediocese.ie

