

# Newsletter

Latest News from the National Office for Safeguarding Children in  
the Catholic Church in Ireland

March 2014



## Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2014. The National Board and National Office staff extend warm wishes to you all for the year ahead.

Teresa Devlin has been appointed as CEO with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014.

The Board is now actively considering and taking steps to meet the staffing needs of the National Office given the considerable planned workload for 2014.

## National Office Staff

Chief Executive Officer [Teresa Devlin](#)

Training Manager [Niall Moore](#)

Administrators [Ann Doyle](#)  
[Imelda Ashe](#)

Advice and Support Sister Colette Stevenson

Independent Reviewers Peter Kieran  
Eamon McTernan  
David Foley  
Jacqueline O'Connor  
Kevin O'Farrell



# Going forward

## A word from Teresa Devlin

I begin 2014 with a mixture of anxiety and excitement as I take on the role of CEO with the NBSCCCI. I firstly want to thank-you all for many the good wishes I have received since notice of my appointment was made in January. I hope I can live up to the expectations and support you in the serious task of safeguarding children. I would like to share with you my Vision for the next 3 years:

Pope Francis said to the young people of Rio de Janeiro:

“Let me tell you what I hope will be the outcome of World Youth Day: I hope there will be **noise**. Here there will be **noise**, I’m quite sure. Here in Rio there will be plenty of **noise**, no doubt about that. But I want you to **make yourselves heard** in your dioceses, I want the noise to go out, I want the Church to go out onto the streets, I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything to do with clericalism, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves. The parishes, the schools, the institutions are made for going out, if they don’t, they become an NGO, and the Church cannot be an NGO. May the bishops and priests forgive me if some of you create a bit of **confusion** afterwards. That’s my advice. Thanks for whatever you can do.”

You will forgive me if I copy Pope Francis, but it is my hope that during my tenure of office that we create safe Church environments where young people are encouraged to shout and make a fuss. I hope to encourage Church personnel to challenge any settled ways of the Church where the gospel values in relation to children are not being followed.

So how do I hope to achieve this?

1. Firstly to strengthen the workforce so that we have the skilled personnel to do all aspects of the work:
  - At an individual case level, through ensuring that professional advice is readily available through the staff and the case management committee – offering advice is one of the three functions of the office.
  - Skilling people to do their jobs through quality training and support.
  - Developing and reviewing policy and practice to ensure the best possible standards of practice – new ways of doing things, new legislation. Consult and influence clusters of good practice.
  - Continuing the important review work, and ensuring a system of standards compliance is developed for the future after all reviews are complete.

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# Going forward continued....

2. Secondly to work alongside the Board and members of Coimirce to ensure that the strategic direction is still fit for purpose; through evaluation and review of services; being flexible to take on new work and new ways of working and to manage people and budgets

3. To develop strategic partnerships inside and outside the Church, with other bodies in the statutory and voluntary sectors, so that we learn from others as well as influence best practice outside the Church. The Church needs to share resources and practice

4. Reflect and review

My Vision can only be the Vision of those I work alongside, but my experience of the past 5 years and especially the last 6 months have given me insight into some of the deficits which need to be addressed:

- The Church must learn better and more compassionate ways of responding to victims
- The Church needs to understand why people have committed acts of abuse so that it doesn't happen again, the Board therefore needs to influence formation programmes
- We need to have clear standards around the support and supervision of priests and religious out of ministry – need to develop frameworks for assessments; clarity around canonical processes; good supervision and support plans so that we reduce the likelihood of reoffending and therefore safeguard future children

My Vision is to give children a meaningful role and power over their own protection. And to shout loudly about the work that is being done.

Back to Pope Francis, my Vision is to

“To disturb the peace of any settled ways in the Church which mean that the gospel is not being lived”.

# Update on our work

## Training

Since the last Newsletter the Training Strategy for 2013-2015 has now been completed and can be accessed by following this link <http://bit.ly/1g4e5Bf>. The strategy details all training that will be held for each role in the safeguarding structure.



To help with the administration of the increasing number of training events that are outlined in the strategy we have updated the website so all booking can be completed online. Alongside this, a dedicated section of the site has been setup for trainers to share best practice and resources across Ireland. If you have any resources that you think would be useful in terms of training, and you have permission to share them please email [niall.moore@safeguarding.ie](mailto:niall.moore@safeguarding.ie) to discuss further. Getting the website to this stage hasn't been without its difficulties and the staff appreciate everyone's patience and support whilst we rectified the glitches.

Alongside the specific role based training outlined in the training strategy, a great deal of work has gone into updating the current Training Manual for all registered trainers. Following an evaluation completed by Eoin O'Mahony last year, the Training Manager established a group to update the manual in line with recommendations from this report. This work has now been completed and mandatory training to update all 113 trainers across Ireland on the new resources has already begun. If you are a registered trainer and haven't attended the updated training the final event is being held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2014. To book your place, follow this link <http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/updated-training-for-trainers/>.

## Booking Training on the Website

All training must now be booked online via the website. Following this link <http://bit.ly/1cwB5bf> will give details of all available training and instructions of how to book. Once you have reserved your place you will receive an email detailing where to send cheques for payment. To ease administration when sending cheques, please enclose details of what training date the cheque is for and the names of the people who are attending.

## Review of Safeguarding Practice in Dioceses and Religious Congregations

The fieldwork for the fifth tranche of Reviews is well underway; it is hoped that this will be complete in the next week and that the reports will be delivered to the relevant Church Authority by mid April for publication thereafter. This will see the completion of reviews into all 26 Dioceses. A significant number of Religious Orders have requested reviews and these are being prioritised by way of their current and past involvement with children. Any Religious Order who has not yet invited the NBSCCCI to review is required to write to the CEO Teresa Devlin so that a timetable for completion of all reviews can be agreed.

For an overview of the findings of the fourth tranche go to: <http://www.safeguarding.ie/safeguarding-review-reports-4th-tranche/>



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## Review of Standards and Guidance

Safeguarding Children, Standards and Guidance document for the Catholic Church in Ireland was issued in 2008 and adopted by all Church bodies in 2009. Experience and developments in practice and planned changes in legislation now require that a review of the Standards and accompanying Guidance is conducted to ensure that they are still fit for purpose. A proposal on a way forward which engages all Church bodies, is being considered by the National Board.

Nominations will be invited from interested parties seeking to support the review of existing standards and development of new standards.

Nominees will be required to be supported by the relevant Bishop/Provincial/Superior and agree to act as a conduit to others in the Dioceses and Religious Congregations within the Metropolitan area. Further details will be provided to allow expressions of interest in writing, stating which group you would wish to support.

In addition information is being requested on gaps in the current Safeguarding Children, where guidance may be required. Please submit your views [Imelda.ashe@safeguarding.ie](mailto:Imelda.ashe@safeguarding.ie) by the end of July 2014.

## Practice Issue 1

**Should the names and contact details of Local Safeguarding Representatives (LSRs) be made publically available?**

In the past the names and contact numbers of LSRs have been displayed publically. In some areas this caused confusion as to who to report allegations to, it also lead to confusion around the role of the LSR as distinct from the Designated Liaison Person (DLP).

We would advise that this issue is considered carefully by your Safeguarding Committee, and rather than displaying individual contact details a central person's details are given, such as the Safeguarding Coordinator who can signpost and query accordingly.

## Practice Issue 2

**What are the issues I need to be aware of in relation to CCTV and webcams in Church property?**

There are a range of questions associated with the use of CCTV and webcam which need to be carefully considered by the Safeguarding Committee and outlined in a clear IT policy. These issues include:

- How, when and why CCTV/Webcams are used?
- Is their use justified and proportional?
- How are parishioners informed and how is their consent given?

For more information see the Data Protection Commissioner's website [www.dataprotection.ie](http://www.dataprotection.ie).