

Newsletter

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

September 2014



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Welcome

After a busy summer, we welcome you to our third newsletter of 2014.

It is important that we take time out to review for you the work of the last three months and share the Board's plans for the coming months.

For more information on our activities please log onto our website www.safeguarding.ie



CEO's Report

The summer of 2014 began with the National Board assisting with the organisation of an international conference on safeguarding, called the Anglophone Conference. This year's conference was hosted by the Bishops Conference of Ireland and Chile and took place in the Irish Pontifical College in Rome. The focus of the conference was "Support – for survivors and for those accused". The key note addresses were given by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin and Bishop Alejandro Goic, Bishop of Rancagua and Vice President of the Chilean Conference of Bishops. The conference papers and presentations can be found on the safeguarding website by following this link <http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/the-anglophone-conference/>.

Two members of the Pontifical Commission attended the conference, Marie Collins and Father Hans Zollner, and they, alongside the Promoter of Justice in the CDF, Monsignor Bob Oliver (now secretary to the Commission) gave an outline of the establishment of the Commission and future intentions regarding additional members.

National Case Management Reference Group



The National Board is pleased to advise that Mr Justice Iarfhlaith O'Neill has agreed to take on the role of Chair of the NCMRG. Justice O'Neill was born in Galway and moved to Dublin when he was aged 11. He graduated from University College Dublin and the King's Inns and was called to the Bar in 1975. He became a senior counsel in 1986 and a high court judge in 1999 before his retirement in August 2014.

Reviews into Safeguarding Practice

Additional reviewers have been employed to increase the National Board's capacity to complete the reviews into safeguarding practice. All diocesan reviews were completed earlier this year. The Board, in consultation with Dr. Helen Buckley and Dr. Anne-Marie Nolan of Trinity College, Dublin has commissioned a study of that exercise in order to draw out the important lessons for improving practice across the whole Church, North and South

The reviews into safeguarding practice in 6 religious congregations (6th tranche) and 12 small female congregations (1st tranche) have now taken place and are being factually checked, legally proofed and will be presented to the Reference Group prior to release back to the congregations for their publication later in the year.

Reviews have also started into the 7th tranche of male religious orders and 2nd tranche of female congregations. The process for review has been amended for any order/congregation that no longer has ministry with children and who have not had any allegations.

The NBSCCCI would encourage any other religious congregation who has not yet applied to be reviewed please do so by submitting a request in writing to the CEO by the end of October 2014.

Revision of Safeguarding Children – Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church

The first Safeguarding Children document was drafted in 2008 and adopted by all Church bodies in 2009. Since then, experience in practice and in conducting reviews of safeguarding in dioceses and religious congregations, alongside proposed changes in legislation in ROI, developments in international best practice, recommendations following the Apostolic Visitation and requirements from the CDF, require that a review of those standards should now be undertaken. This is to ensure that the standards are still fit for purpose and consistent with best practice internationally.

The National Board view this exercise as an extremely important project for the Church.

Process:

A project manager, Grace Kelly has been appointed to lead a number of working groups to review and rewrite each standard and identify if there are gaps where new standards are required. The work commenced in June 2014 and it is anticipated that draft standards will be presented to the spring meeting (2015) of the Bishops' Conference, and to CORI and IMU for approval and adoption.

Eight working groups have been established with personnel across the diocesan and congregational Church as follows:

1. Overarching child safeguarding policy, in line with the observations of the findings of the Apostolic Visitation:

“The Norms contained in the Guidelines, as well as the procedures to implement them, must be updated in accordance with the indications published on 3 May 2011 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and also periodically revised. The Guidelines need to be amended in order to create a common model for all Dioceses and Religious Institutes, and they should be periodically re-examined in order to ensure increasing effectiveness both in the work of prevention and in the response to cases of abuse in all the required aspects, for the good of everyone concerned.”

Revision Of Standards and Guidance Continued

The intention is to have 'One Church Policy Child Safeguarding for Ireland' and for each Church authority to demonstrate implementation of that policy against 7 standards (working groups 2-8 above). This would enable greater clarity for the public on what the Catholic Church in Ireland's position is in relation to child safeguarding and remove the need for duplication of policy documents. It still requires each Church authority to implement the standards locally and evidence through local practice how they are meeting the standards.

Outcomes of the Working Groups

Each working group will be responsible for:

- (a) Assisting with the review and revision of standards and criteria by:
 - Attending working group meetings as scheduled by the project manager
 - Contributing to the discussion by sharing expertise and knowledge
 - Assisting with redefining the standard
 - Assisting with identifying essential criteria to meet the standard
 - In consultation with other members of the working group, identify all required guidance to support the implementation of the standard
 - Assisting if requested, with writing, editing and revising guidance documents.
- (b) Ensuring that the standards and criteria are in line with relevant legislation in Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- (c) Ensuring that the standards and criteria are consistent with canon law
- (d) Ensuring that the advice of the Apostolic Visitation is included in the redrafting of the Standards
- (e) Consulting with colleagues in dioceses and congregations on the draft standard, criteria and guidance documents
- (f) Sharing consultation views with the working group
- (g) Agreeing the final draft standard, criteria and guidance for approval by the Board, and the Directors of Coimirce for submission to the Irish Episcopal Conference, CORI and IMU.
- (h) Discussing and offering guidance on implementation of new standards through training and communication.

Consultation meetings with other relevant personnel and groups are also being planned, including survivor groups; accused priests and religious representatives; statutory agencies; legal advisors (canon and civil law); and children. In addition communication will take place with the CDF and other relevant congregations in the Vatican.

How to become involved

- For information regarding the working groups please contact Grace.kelly@safeguarding.ie
- Working group meetings for 6 of the 7 standards have been held; Meetings on the overall policy and Standard 7 - Implementation and Monitoring will take place in October 2014
- The draft standards will be issued back to the working groups for wider consultation
- Two draft standards – Training, and Care For Complainants have just been issued, please contact a member of the working group to access and offer views.
- By end of October the draft standards on Reporting and Responding, and Working with Respondents will go out to the working groups
- By end of November the draft standards on Creating Safe Environments, and Communicating the Safeguarding Message will be issued to the working groups.

Please make sure your views are heard, directly by contacting Grace.kelly@safeguarding.ie or by contacting a member of the working group.

Training

As we come towards the latter half of 2014 the Training Strategy is in the process of being revised to include forthcoming training for 2015. Training which is being developed will take account of recent legislative developments and the revision of Safeguarding Children, Standards and Guidance for the Catholic Church.

If you have particular training needs that you would like the Board to address please contact the training manager (niall.moore@safeguarding.ie).

Training Delivered

Since the last newsletter was issued the following training events have been completed:

1. First Point of Contact Training for those who are administrators or secretaries to the Bishop/Provincial/Superior based in diocesan/provincial offices or bishop's houses.
2. Armagh Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meeting
3. Training on Working with Survivors
4. Safeguarding Committee Training delivered in 6 dioceses and 3 religious orders to date.
5. Seminarian Training to 1st year, 2nd year and masters students in St Patrick's Maynooth.

Upcoming Training

1. **Training for Advisory Panels-** This training will be delivered locally at a time and date that suits the members of each advisory panel. We have decided to use this approach to train advisory panels as each panel is made up differently and are at different stages in terms of their training needs. If you would like to avail of this training please send an email to the Training Manager (niall.moore@safeguarding.ie) and outline:

- The training needs you have identified for your advisory panel
- The length of time you need training for
- The professional background of your panel members
- Dates that you wish the training to be delivered

2. **Training for Safeguarding Committees-** This training has proved immensely beneficial to the members of 9 safeguarding committees who have taken part to date. As this training is delivered locally there is an increased demand for dates and at present we are taking bookings for the delivery of this training in early 2015 and beyond. If you would like to avail of this training please send an email to the Training Manager (niall.moore@safeguarding.ie).

3. **5/10/2014- Seminarian Training (Pontifical Irish College, Rome)-** As part of the Training Strategy, safeguarding training will be delivered to seminarians and postgraduate students in the college, this training will focus on the practical aspects of safeguarding in the process of creating safe environments, as part of the formation process.

Training Continued



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- 4. 30/10/2014- Cashel Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meeting-** As part of the review of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church a recommendation was made that staff from the office would hold meetings in each of the four ecclesiastical province areas to update key personnel on the work of the NBSCCCI. The first meeting was held in Armagh in June and proved very helpful to those who attended. The next meeting will be held in the Anner Hotel in Thurles and invitations have been issued to Bishops, Provincials and Superiors who minister in the ecclesiastical area. If you are part of the Cashel ecclesiastical province and wish please contact ann.doyle@safeguarding.ie as soon as possible to confirm your attendance.
- 5. 5/11/2014- Training for Bishops and Congregational Leaders-** Following requests from a number of Bishops and Provincials, the Board is organising a day specifically for leaders of Congregations and Dioceses across Ireland. The day will cover a range of topics relating to safeguarding including, the strategic role of the Bishop/Provincial in relation to safeguarding, pastoral ministry and safeguarding and the importance of support and supervision. If you wish to attend this training places can be booked by following this link <http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/training-for-bishops-and-congregational-leaders/>

SAVE THE DATE

National Safeguarding Conference – February 2015

The Board will host a National safeguarding conference in the Sheraton Hotel Athlone, beginning at 6pm on the 20th February and concluding at 5pm on the 21st of February 2015. The event will focus on a number of key developments in safeguarding and will include speakers from a range of backgrounds. More information will follow.