

WELCOME AND WHO WE ARE

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this newsletter which has been developed by the members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Office. I hope it will prove to be informative and useful. I look forward to its continued development and its contribution to ensuring we place the needs of our most vulnerable parishioners in paramount pastoral position.



+Eamon Martin
Archbishop of Armagh



Diocesan Safeguarding Office Staff

L-R: Aidan Gordon, Eleanor Kelly & Pierce Fox

The *Diocesan Safeguarding Office* comprises of three members of staff—Mr. Aidan Gordon, Director of Safeguarding, Mrs. Eleanor Kelly, Safeguarding Training Co-ordinator, and Mr. Pierce Fox, Administrator.

In addition to the Safeguarding Office the

Archbishop has established a *Diocesan Safeguarding Committee*. Its role is primarily focused on creating, maintaining and monitoring a safe environment for all aspects of church life and activity and for advising on the human resources required for implementing best Safeguarding Practice across services. Its role is supportive and developmental.

The *Diocesan Advisory Panel* has been appointed by the Archbishop in order to advise and assist him at all stages of the investigative process into alleged abuse.

NEW SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

As outlined in their October Newsletter, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) have completed their work on the development of new Child Safeguarding Standards for

the Catholic Church in Ireland. Following a period of extensive consultation and refinement, the draft standards are now with the three sponsoring bodies for their consideration and

approval. Once they are approved, a training update programme will be developed and rolled out across the Archdiocese.



NBSCCCI NEWSLETTER

The January edition of the National Board Newsletter can be accessed by going to

www.armagharchdiocese.org/nbsccc-newsletters/

All previous editions are accessible there also.

UPCOMING SAFEGUARDING EVENTS

DIOCESAN INFORMATION FACILITATOR TRAINING	23 JAN 2016
PARISH INFORMATION SESSIONS BEGIN	MARCH 2016
DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE	SPRING 2016

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DETAILS

Contact Details:

Safeguarding Office:

028/048 3752 5592

Designated Officers:

Aidan Gordon:

0044 78 4110 1687

Eleanor Kelly:

0044 75 8432 3138

The Archbishop has appointed two Diocesan Designated Officers. Their role is:

to hear any concerns relating to safeguarding, including any disclosures or allegations of abuse, and take

responsibility for managing the response to that concern or disclosure, from start to finish;

to ensure that the person raising a concern, disclosing abuse, or making an allegation and anyone who is implicated are regularly informed about the progress of the inquiry process;

to liaise with the National Office and have an overview of all matters dealt with under these procedures within the Archdiocese;

to carefully record all steps undertaken as part of these procedures.

SAFEGUARDING PARISH VISITS

Over the course of last year Aidan has been visiting parishes to introduce himself to clergy and safeguarding representatives.

To date over half of the parishes in the Archdiocese have been visited, and these visits will continue this year. Pierce will be in contact with Parish Priests to arrange in due course.

If you have any ideas for inclusion in future editions, please feel free to contact the Safeguarding Office!



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING UPDATE

Awareness training is a cornerstone of the Archdiocese Safeguarding Strategy and as such it is mandatory that all Church Personnel, in contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults undertake this training every three years.

The new training cycle will begin once the Seven Standards of the Catholic Church have been ratified and I will be writing to all parishes soon to organise

these safeguarding training sessions.

The Church has commissioned 'Volunteer Now' to design a training programme specifically for those working within our Church with Adults and I will give you more details about this in the near future.

The Safeguarding Office is keen to know if there is any other training you feel would be useful for you when carrying out your ministry and welcomes any suggestions. Please feel free to contact me with

your ideas/suggestions:
ekelly@archdioceseofarmagh.com



A recent Safeguarding Information Session with members of Redemptoris Mater and the Neocatechumenal Way, in Dundalk.

TOWARDS HEALING & TOWARDS PEACE

Towards Healing is an independent organisation providing professional support for people who have

experienced institutional, clerical or religious abuse in Ireland.

The Helpline is Open:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 11am to 8pm

and Friday from 11am to 6pm

Freephone 1800 303416 (ROI)

Freephone 0800 0963315 (NI and UK)



Hearing impaired Text Line Number: 085-8022859

Email: coordinator@towardshealing.ie

Website: www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace offers Spiritual support for survivors of abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people

who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace.

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 5053028

Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 7710533

Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie

Website: www.towardspeace.ie

