

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

The annual Diocesan Safeguarding Conferences took place on 20th October 2016 (Drumcree Pastoral Centre) & 27th October 2016 (Pastoral Centre, Dundalk). The purpose of the conference is to update safeguarding personnel on the most recent developments within the safeguarding arena. Each venue was extremely well attended by Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Representatives, with almost one hundred people present each evening.

Each conference was hosted by Archbishop Eamon Martin, with input from Aidan Gordon, Diocesan Director of Safeguarding, as well as invited guest speakers representing Towards Healing, Women's Aid and ONUS. In addition, the new Safeguarding Parish Guidance was launched at the Conference.



L-R AIDAN GORDON, DIRECTOR OF SAFEGUARDING; DR. MELISSA DERMODY, TOWARDS HEALING (DIRECTOR); HANNAH BLAKE-KNOX, ONUS TRAINER; EILEEN MURPHY, CEO WOMEN'S AID ARMAGHDOWN; LISA MARMION, WOMEN'S AID DUNDALK

NEW SAFEGUARDING PARISH GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The new Safeguarding Parish Guidance Document was launched at the Diocesan Safeguarding Conference last October. Each parish has been given one copy of this document, which replaces the previous policy document issued in 2012.

This document can also be accessed on the Safeguarding section of the Diocesan Website.

Each folder contains various pieces of guidance pertaining to parish activities as well as the updated recruitment and selection/vetting forms.

The document also contains the new Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement which reads as follows:

Policy Statement

The Archdiocese of Armagh as part of the Catholic Church in Ireland recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children and is committed to ensuring their safety and wellbeing,

and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. The Archdiocese of Armagh, as part of the Catholic Church, recognises each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

The Archdiocese of Armagh (including clergy, religious, staff, volunteers and any other Church personnel) has a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment which supports their best interests and prevents abuse.



If you have any queries relating to the use of this document please make contact with the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

NBSCCCI NEWSLETTER

The January 2017 edition of the National Board Newsletter can be accessed by going to

<http://www.armagharchdiocese.org/safeguarding-updates-and-newsletters/>

All previous editions are accessible there also.

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SAFE CHURCH INITIATIVE

During the Diocesan Safeguarding Conference last October Hannah Blake-Knox spoke about the work of ONUS and in particular the Safe Church Award. Those taking on this initiative follow the Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence:

1. We will support Safe Place Campaign Pledge: never to commit, condone or stay silent about domestic violence or abuse.
2. We will acknowledge that domestic violence or abuse are problems that impact on all of us as a society, and will be prepared to play our part in supporting anyone affected.
3. We will provide a Safe Place for anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse to confidentially access information.

4. We will effectively respond to disclosure of abuse and support anyone affected to access support.

5. We will raise awareness within the Church that there are no excuses for acts of domestic violence or abuse.

6. We will commit to raising awareness about the support available for anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse and work in partnership with other organizations to ensure best practice.

Anyone interested in finding out more about this initiative should contact ONUS directly. Details can be found on their website: www.onustraining.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING STRATEGIC PLAN

The Diocesan Safeguarding Committee have approved the new Safeguarding Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020. This will be e-mailed to all clergy and safeguarding representatives in due course.

The plan will also be made available on the Safeguarding section of the Diocesan Website.

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



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING UPDATE

The revision/updating of the Seven Standards of the Catholic Church has necessitated changes in the format and delivery of the NBSCCCI Full Day Safeguarding Training which is targeted towards those in a leadership role within the Archdiocese. The following groups have attended this training:

Diocesan Clergy, Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Members of the Permanent Diaconate, Seminarians (Redemptoris Mater) and Diocesan Youth Leaders. Additional dates have been sent to the few people who were unable to attend. Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Volunteers will undertake the Information Sessions before the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage in May. Volunteers from SPRED will be invited to participate in Information Sessions in the summer. Other sessions will also be offered to parish personnel in due course.

Keeping Adults Safe

This training programme, which has been developed on behalf of the Northern Dioceses, will be delivered to relevant groups later in the year.

A word of thanks

Sincere thanks to all those who have attended the training, for their commitment and energy in ensuring that the good work done by our Church in the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults continues.



SAFEGUARDING POSTERS FOR PARISHES

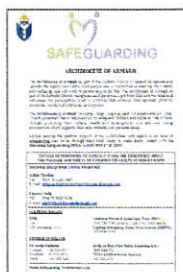
The new Safeguarding Posters have now been sent to all parishes in the Archdiocese. It is imperative that the new safeguarding posters are displayed prominently in all churches and parish property as it is vital that correct information is readily available for anyone wishing to raise concerns or report allegations of abuse.

It is also important that the old posters are removed, as the information con-

tained in them is now out of date.

Posters in other languages are also being developed.

Posters in Irish, Polish, Portuguese and Lithuanian will soon be made available to parishes.



DIOCESAN WEBSITE

The Safeguarding section of the Diocesan Website has been updated. You can access this section directly at the following web address:

www.armagharchdiocese.org/safeguarding/