

Safeguarding Newsletter

Winter 2017 Edition

Welcome to the final winter edition of the Safeguarding newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are now approaching the end of 2017.

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone for your continued support with regards to safeguarding. Being involved in safeguarding is sometimes not the easiest role. This year having the additional challenges associated with a significant number of changes in relation to training, and the parish self-audit to name but two. These changes have been important not only to ensure that we are compliant with the National Board Standards but also to ensure that the best levels of safeguarding practice are maintained throughout the diocese. The Safeguarding Office would not be able to continue to deliver the safeguarding service within the Church without your continued dedication and commitment to maintaining the highest of standards required in this vital role and for that we are continually grateful.

TRAINING

As many of you are aware, the requirements of Standard 5 of the NBSCCCI Policy and Standards Document 2016 require that the diocese have “verified trainers” to deliver the full-day child safeguarding training programme. We now have nine verified trainers in the diocese and congratulations to all nine for successfully completing the intensive training course on behalf of the diocese.

You can access the full training schedule which is now available for January to June 2018 on the safeguarding website. There are still some dates available. Details of the courses can be found on our Calendar. [Click here](#). **However, if you are already enrolled on a course, please check that you are attending the correct level of training course associated with your particular role.**

As places are in high demand please ensure priority is given to nominating new leaders for training courses. It is also important that people advise the Safeguarding Office if they are unable to attend training so that someone else can be offered a place from the waiting list.

Remember that regardless of the level of training required, all Church personnel are required to abide by good child safeguarding practice.

As demand is high and places rapidly being allocated we will be scheduling additional training events, so its best to keep an eye out for additional dates and venues.

If you have any questions or queries please get in touch with us by contacting Lorna at office@soddc.org.

Looking forward to next year the Safeguarding Office are already putting our training diary together for September 2018. We would like to use different venues across the diocese so if you would like to host a training event please let us know.

FUTURE TRAINING



Keep Children Safe Online - 'Virtual Reality Programme: Keep Safe Online'

Keeping children and young people safe on line is a priority in safeguarding. The safeguarding Office, in partnership with SBNI, the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland, will be hosting two on line awareness seminars for parents on the 17th and 18th of January in the Good Shepherd Centre on the Ormeau. Living Youth will also be hosting a seminar for young leaders to ensure they are fully aware of the pitfalls and dangers of being online. For further details please check the training calendar on our website.



The Safeguarding Team are delighted to have received the parish self-audit returns. To those who have completed a return and those who are still working on them we are extremely grateful for all the hard work by Parish Safeguarding Committees and Clergy.

We know that the parish self-audit is a time-consuming task and we are all grateful for the contribution made by Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Committees to ensure best safeguarding practice in the Diocese.

Listening and Communications



Barbara McDermott, Director of Safeguarding as part of the overall process of listening and communication is keen to meet with PSC Chairs and Parish Priests. Rather than organising separate meetings in relation to this and appreciating that Parishes are busy we will endeavour to coordinate the next tranche of meetings between SSO's and PSC Chairs/Committee Members for the incoming year.

New for 2018 – The Safeguarding website will be revamped and active early in the New Year. We anticipate that this will make it easier to access guidance, policy relevant forms to download. This website will be compatible with mobile devices for ease of access.

And finally, the Safeguarding and Vetting Offices would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to working with you all in 2018!

