

Mid-Winter Newsletter

Whistleblowing Policy

As per the NBSCCCI guidance, the Diocese are expected to have in place, an up to date policy on whistle blowing, which is accessible to parishes and volunteers undertaking work with children and adults at risk.

Currently, the Safeguarding Office has a comprehensive whistleblowing policy, which can be accessed on our Safeguarding Website <http://www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com/>

Over the coming few weeks, the office will be issuing a user friendly whistle blowing leaflet, which will highlight the key messages from the comprehensive policy. This leaflet should be made available to all volunteers in the parish and be given to all new volunteers wanting to undertake work with children and adults at risk.

Whistleblowing is an important means for all our personnel and volunteers to raise legitimate concerns about practice or conduct of others, which causes concern. The leaflet clarifies how this can be done and what will happen if you raise a concern.

Speakup Speakout



Down & Connor

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Training Section on the Parish Self Audit Form

This section on future Audit forms, will be revised and simplified.

Attendance of Parish Priests at Parish Safeguarding Committee Meetings

When Parish Safeguarding Committees (PSC's) were originally established some 13 years ago, it was agreed that whilst Clergy would not act as Chairs, their attendance at PSC meetings was considered central to the workings of the Committee.

As our PSC structures are now well established, many of the self audit returns have commented on the positive impact of having

the local Parish Priest in attendance. This aids decision making and highlights an active involvement of the Clergy in safeguarding .

The frequency of meetings may vary between Parishes but it remains good practice for the Parish Priest to attend a minimum of one meeting annually. We would of course, welcome more regular attendance when possible .

“Many of the Parish Self Audit Returns have commented on the positive impact of having the local Parish Priest in attendance at PSC Meetings.”

Media Consent



Guidance on Media Consent

Parish Resource Pack 7.9.2 Child and Guardian Joint Consent.

This template covers the full range of consent issues which arise in the involvement of children and young people in activities organised within the parish. Media consent is included in this Child and Guardian Joint Consent and should be included and completed.

Parish Resource Pack 7.9.9 Media Permission Form.

This is an exclusive media consent form and should be used for specific public events which are not covered in 7.9.2 (Child and Guardian Joint Consent). For example, media/photographs of children and

Please remember

that official photographers should be vetted and issued with identification to be worn at all times during the event. The photographer must be informed that all images will remain the property of the Diocese/Parish.



Training Update—New Facilitators for Child Level One training

Over the past six months, a number of volunteers have come forward to develop their skills by delivering Child Level One training sessions in their own Parishes.

To date, the Safeguarding Office has provided training to nine Level One Facilitators, as they will be known, and have dates set to provide training to a further five volunteer Facilitators.

The aim is to offer a number of dates for Level One training. (Level One is targeted at those individuals who do not have any direct input with children's activities, but who should be aware of our Safeguarding Principles and Practices).

Some dates have already been confirmed and are available to view on the Safeguarding Website <http://www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com/>

Parish Training Records

A record must be kept by parishes of their volunteers and training. Parishes need to have a system to track who has been trained and when refresher training is due.

If you have any queries over who has been trained in your parish, please contact Marion in the Safeguarding Office.

If you wish to attend any training session, you must always book on via the Safeguarding Office.

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any "drop Ins" who have not already indicated their wish to attend, as this may exceed the numbers permitted to attend.



Parish Site Visits

A Member of Staff from the Safeguarding Office will be organising to visit all Parish PSC's (Chair's & Parish Priest's) during the months of February, March and April 2020.

You should, by now, have arranged a site visit with the Safeguarding Office.

The visits will be an opportunity to jointly discuss any issues or challenges facing PSC's and to explore how the Safeguarding Office can support the vital work of the PSC's.

Good News stories are always welcome.

Risk Assessments for Children's Activities

Parish Resource Pack 7.8 (Guidance on Risk Assessment for Activities with Children).

A video podcast will be provided to Parish Safeguarding Committees which will clarify what is required from Parish Volunteers in the area, Risk Assessment.

Safeguarding Materials in other Languages

It is important that the Safeguarding message from the Diocese is distributed as widely as possible.

Translating some of our key leaflets is an ongoing programme of work for the Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office will commence this process with the translation of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy statement in Irish and Polish.

This work will develop to cover other languages over the coming months.

Adult Safeguarding Policy & User Friendly Leaflet

The Adult Safeguarding Policy is now available on the Safeguarding website in the Adult Safeguarding Tile:

<http://www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com/>

A short concise Adult Safeguarding leaflet will be made available shortly.



Vetting News

Parish Resource Pack Vetting and Recruitment

The Parish Resource Pack has been reviewed and updated to include information and advice on Vetting and Recruitment for Clergy, Staff and Volunteers.

The newly updated forms are also available to download and print from the Vetting Tile on the Home Page on our website:

<http://www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com.cp-1.webhostbox.net/vetting/>



Vetting Clinics

The Northern Diocese Vetting Office are planning to offer practical support on vetting queries to all new and existing PSC Chairs and Deputies. This will be done by way of Phone or Drop In Clinics.

Dates and times will be published on the Safeguarding Website calendar:

<http://www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com/calendar/>

ACCESS NI Pin Number



Check that you are using the current PIN Number for Access NI. If you need to confirm the PIN number, you can do so by calling the Vetting office on 028 9049 2783.