



Summer 2022 Newsletter

NATIONAL BOARD CONFERENCE MAY 2022



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

A number of Diocesan Safeguarding Staff, representatives from Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and Parish Safeguarding Volunteers were invited to attend the National Board Conference in Monaghan on 11th and 12th May 2022.

The theme of the conference was “Theology of Safeguarding”
The conference opened with mass in Saint Maccartan’s Cathedral Monaghan celebrated by Bishop Duffy, Church Authority, the Diocese of Clogher.

The keynote speech, on the opening evening, was given by Cardinal O’Malley, Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors through a live Zoom link to the conference. The Cardinal made himself available for a stimulating Q and A session.

The following day there was a full programme of very interesting input and sessions exploring the theology of safeguarding. This focus was not exclusively about policy and procedures, but about how safeguarding is rooted in theological context.

Please explore the National Board website for more input on Theology of Safeguarding.

<https://www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2022>

Down & Connor

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THE NATIONAL BOARD REVIEW OF DOWN & CONNOR

Bishop Treanor has formally communicated with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and has invited the National Board into the Diocese to undertake a review of safeguarding across Down and Connor.



This review will be based on the Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016 and the 7 Standards this policy is based on.

Apart from reviewing the Diocesan response to how the Diocese responds and manages suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations relating to abuse, the review will also look at safeguarding in practice at parish level, looking at parish safeguarding as outlined in Standard 1 Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Committee will set up a small number of subgroups to prepare the Diocese for this review.

It is envisaged this review will take place early in 2023.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Office welcomes this review and would view it as a real learning and development opportunity which keeps the victim and survivor at the centre of our work and ensures our church and parishes are safe places for all children and young people.

We will keep you informed as preparation for this review is progressed.

SUPPORT PERSON PANEL

The Diocesan Safeguarding Office is pleased to announce that we have been able to establish the operation of a Support Person as outlined in Standard 3 Care and Support of the Complainant.

The Support Person plays a key role in supporting the Complainant at that initial stage of disclosure of abuse and would work closely with the Designated Liaison Person in ensuring the Complainant is offered a sensitive and caring accompaniment during this process.

The Support Person will be a valuable asset.

UPDATE

TRAINING NEWS

Child Level 1& 2 Safeguarding training & Refresher Training Sept 2022 to Dec 2022

New dates have been scheduled for Level 1 , Level 2 and Refresher training sessions.

Again, the office are offering a “blended approach” to the delivery of training so the sessions are a mix of face to face and virtual.

All current sessions and further forthcoming sessions are available on the Training Calendar on our website at

<https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/available-training/>



Training Delivered April 2022 to June 2022



The following training sessions were delivered by the Safeguarding Office

April 2022	Child Level 1 Information Session	1 Session delivered
May 2022	Child Level 1 Information Session	1 Session delivered
May 2022	Clergy Mandatory Child level 2	1 Session delivered
May 2022	Child Level 2 Refresher Training	1 session delivered
June 2022	Child Level 2 Safeguarding	2 Sessions delivered
July 2022	Child Level 1 Information Session	1 Session delivered

Registered Trainers Update

Congratulations to Louise McQuillan and Paul Koyidan who recently completed the “Train the Trainer” course to become Registered Trainers with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.



Booking Safeguarding Training Courses



Remember

If you would like to book onto a course for either yourself, or on behalf of other volunteers in your parish, you need to complete the booking form and send it to office@soddc.org

Booking forms for all training can be downloaded from our website at

<https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/available-training/>

VETTING

Information and forms regarding new applications and changes in roles can be found at:

<https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/vetting/>

If you have a query in relation to completing a vetting application you can email your query to vetting@soddc.org



Remember, an individual can only carry out a Regulated Activity when the Vetting Office has issued a Free to Appoint letter to the Parish.

ONUS UPDATE

The Diocese continues to engage with the ONUS organisation in raising awareness within agencies about the importance of understanding domestic violence and abuse and the critical aspect of creating the “safe place” within our church where victims of domestic violence voices can be heard.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team would encourage clergy, religious and our volunteers to sign up to webinars facilitated by Diocesan staff and volunteers and registered by ONUS



More information is available at www.onustraining.co.uk

PSC CHAIRPERSON HAVE YOUR DETAILS CHANGED?

Has your mobile number or email address changed recently?

If so, please contact Marion in the Safeguarding Office office@soddc.org who will email you a contact form to complete.





“Ending Violence Against Women and Girls” and the Bystander Approach

Tragic incidents of violence directed against women and girls remain prevalent in our society. These crimes such as rape, female genital mutilation, stalking, harassment and digital crimes such as up-skirting, revenge porn and cyber-flashing are taking place every day.

It is unacceptable that women and girls have to police their own lives and routines. This is a basic human rights issue.

The Northern Ireland Executive has directed that a Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls be developed, and the Executive Office is leading this work across departments.

On 28th June 2022, two members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team attended a conference “The Bystander Approach” organised by the Northern Ireland Executive Office.

This was to develop and encourage an institutional culture which addresses and challenges the societal attitudes which can develop into violence against women and girls.

We all need to do more.

- * The standard you walk past, is the standard you accept.
- * The Bystander is each of us.
- * The Diocese is committed to play its part in this strategy and to work with the Northern Ireland Executive Office.

We will keep our Parishes informed as this engagement develops.

