



Winter 2022 Newsletter

NATIONAL BOARD REVIEW



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

National Board Review of Child Safeguarding

The Apostolic Administrator Archbishop Treanor has invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland to formally review child safeguarding across our Diocese. This is in compliance of Standard 7 Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland “ Quality Assuring Compliance with the Standards”.

There will be two basic elements of the Review;

1. The operation and safeguarding processes across our Parishes in the Diocese (Covering Standards 1,5,6 and 7)
2. Case Management , how the Diocese responds to suspicions, concerns, knowledge and allegations, (covering Standards 2,3,4 and 7).

The Diocese is currently working with the National Board to agree the process and operation of the Review. It is envisaged that the Review will take place in early spring. Our Parishes will be an integral part of the Review in respect of safeguarding at a local level.

We will be in ongoing communication with Parishes in relation to this Review and we will certainly keep you informed.

Down & Connor

Safeguarding & Vetting Office

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BELFAST
BT14 6LA

Contact Us:

Safeguarding: 028 9049 2798

Email: office@soddc.org
www.downandconnorsafeguarding.org

Vetting: 028 9049 2783

Email: vetting@soddc.org
<https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/>

Contact Details for the DLP

DLP in Down and Connor
07534 992 124

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ANNUAL PARISH SELF AUDIT FOR 2022

You will all have by now, received the Microsoft Form link for the Parish Self Audit Return. If for any reason you have not got access to the link, please contact the Safeguarding Office.

There is a copy of the questions asked in the parish self-audit available on the Safeguarding Office Website <https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/annual-parish-audit-2022/>



It has been agreed that we will engage with parishes regarding the self-audit return via series of zoom meetings. These meetings and the completion of the audit by parishes will inform the Bishops response to the National Board and the future support from the Safeguarding Office.

Dates for the meetings will be sent to you in due course.

TRAINING NEWS



Child Level 1& 2 Safeguarding Training & Refresher Training Sessions

New dates have been scheduled for Level 1 , Level 2 and Refresher training sessions for 2023.

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 Sept 2022 to Dec 2022

Training Delivered since the last newsletter

Child Level 1 Information Sessions	8 Sessions delivered
Child Level 2 Refresher Training	5 Sessions delivered
Child Level 2 Safeguarding Training	4 Sessions delivered

REMINDER FOR LEADERS OF CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLES GROUPS

Codes of Behaviour

If you are organising any children/young people's activities (e.g. children's liturgy, youth club, choir) please ensure there is a code of behaviour. Children/young people should be involved in drawing up a code of behaviour for themselves; however, it is important that in working with children/young people, an appropriate adult with relevant skills and competencies participates to support them in developing the code of behaviour. Also share the code of behaviour with parents/carers.

There is further information regarding codes of behaviour in the resource pack <https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/parish-resource-pack/>



New Procedure for Booking Safeguarding Training

The safeguarding office are now using Microsoft Forms for booking training courses.

If you would like to book onto a course for either yourself, or on behalf of other volunteers in your parish, you can access the Microsoft Forms link for the relevant course via the training drop down menu on the safeguarding website.

<https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/booking-courses/>

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.



TECHNOLOGY—STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Keeping children and young people safe over the Christmas period is a concern for everyone. Digital safety is an important part of keeping children and young people protected. There are gifts such as Mobile Phones, Gaming Consoles, Laptops, tablets and Smart TV's. These devices all connect to the internet, so it is important that appropriate safety features are put in place.

As a Parent or Carer,

- ✓ Keep communicating with child/young person
- ✓ Show interest
- ✓ Be a positive role model
- ✓ Make rules with children & young people
- ✓ Have a safety plan
- ✓ Be informed
- ✓ Provide support.



Resources that give advice about Safety Features include:

UK Safer Internet Centre

www.saferinternet.org.uk

(Parent and Carers Guide)

Think u know

www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

ConnectSafely

<https://www.connectsafely.org/>

Child Exploitation & Online Protection Unit

www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

Ikeepsafe

<https://ikeepsafe.org/>

*Remember
the age
requirements
for social media*



To be eligible to sign up for Instagram, you must be at least 13 years old



To be eligible to sign up for Facebook, you must be at least 13 years old



To sign up for TikTok, you must verify that your age is over 13



To sign up for Snapchat, you must be at least 13 years old

YouTube



In order to create a YouTube account, you must be at least 13 years old, however you can view access the content without creating an account



To be eligible to sign up to Whatsapp you must be 16 years old

CHRISTMAS OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS & USEFUL CONTACTS

The Safeguarding and Northern Diocese Vetting
Offices will close on
Thursday 22nd December 2022
and will reopen on Wednesday 28th
December 2022 as normal.

Both Offices will also be closed on
Mon 2nd January 2023 for the
New Year Bank Holiday.



*We would like to take this opportunity to wish
everyone a very happy Christmas and Peaceful New year.*



CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES GATEWAY TEAM

During normal working hours (Mon-Fri: 9.00am-5.00pm)

Belfast HSC Trust Tel: 028 9050 7000;
South Eastern HSC Trust Tel: 0300 1000 300;
Northern HSC Trust Tel: 0300 1234 333;
Southern HSC Trust Tel: 0800 7837 745
 028 3756 7100

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES GATEWAY TEAM

During normal working hours (Mon-Fri: 9.00am-5.00pm)

Belfast HSC Trust Tel: 028 9504 1744;
South Eastern HSC Trust Tel: 028 9250 1227;
Northern HSC Trust Tel: 028 9441 3659;
Southern HSC Trust Tel: 028 3756 4423.

Outside normal working hours (Friday 5.00pm – Monday 9.00am, including Bank holidays):

Regional Emergency Social Work Service:

Tel: 028 9504 9999
