

## *NATIONAL BOARD REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING IN DOWN AND CONNOR JUNE 2023*



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

You would be aware that Bishop Emertius, Noel Treanor in June 2022, formally invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland to review child safeguarding across our Diocese.

This review took place on 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The Diocese would wish to thank the parishes who directly engaged in the Review, the Youth Ministry that the Reviewers visited and Saint Genevieve's High School for facilitating this visit and all the individuals and groups across the Diocese who interacted with the two reviewers.

We would also like to thank the two Reviewers for their professionalism and expertise they brought to child safeguarding within the church setting.

Our Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Donal McKeown has received a Draft Report which we were asked to comment on in relation to factual accuracy. This has been completed and returned to the National Board.

The Diocese will be receiving the Final Report in the near future. When we receive the Final Report, the Diocesan Safeguarding Office will engage in a robust feedback process with all our Parishes.

At this stage I can say that the initial feedback from the Reviewers was wherever they visited or whoever they spoke with safeguarding is embedded across the Diocese and that Parishes and Safeguarding Committees are working diligently to the seven standards.

*Philip O'Hara*

Down & Connor

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Email: [vetting@soddc.org](mailto:vetting@soddc.org)  
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### Contact Details for the DLP

DLP in Down and Connor  
07534 992 124

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## LATEST NEWS

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### *Annual Parish Audit 2023*

It is approaching the time of year when we will be issuing the Annual Parish Self Audit of Safeguarding across the Diocese.

As with previous years, the audit form will again be available for completion online via Microsoft Forms.



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## PUBLICATIONS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

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The Safeguarding Office have published some key leaflets and posters into the following languages;

**Gaelic Malayalam Mandarin Polish**

The leaflets available are as follows;

- **Safeguarding Policy Poster**
- **Child—What to do if you have a concern leaflet (A5)**
- **Adult—What to do if you have a concern leaflet (A5)**

If you would like the A5 Child Leaflet or Adult Leaflet, these are available at request from the Safeguarding Office.

***Please note— the Safeguarding Policy poster presently, is an online resource only.***

All publications are available to view, download and print from our website:

[PARISH RESOURCES](#)

## TRAINING NEWS



*Did you know...*

That new dates are continuously added to the [TRAINING CALENDAR](#) on our [WEBSITE](#).



If you would like to book onto a course, simply click on the relevant course link under the [BOOKING COURSES](#) tab and fill out the Online Booking Form.



### *Up and Coming Training Dates for your Calendars*

**LEVEL 1 CHILD SAFEGUARDING VIRTUAL SESSION: 28th November 2023**

<b>CHILD LEVEL 2 REFRESHER SESSIONS:</b>	<b>9th November 2023</b>	<b>Newcastle</b>
	<b>5th December 2023</b>	<b>Ballymena</b>

<b>CHILD LEVEL 2:</b>	<b>18th &amp; 25th October 2023</b>	<b>Newtownards</b>
	<b>9th &amp; 16th November 2023</b>	<b>Belfast</b>

*Spaces on sessions are allocated on a first come first serve basis, therefore we suggest that if you wish to book anyone onto a session, please register them as soon as possible via the link below:*

[BOOKING COURSES](#)

### *Adult Safeguarding Training*

**11<sup>th</sup> November – Adult Safeguarding Training** – This training is suitable for clergy and volunteers who have regular and/or direct contact with adults as a **leader** or **coordinator** of adult activities (e.g., lunch clubs, SPRED, Bereavement groups).

There will be further dates issued soon for Adult Safeguarding Awareness Sessions which will provide an introduction to adult safeguarding issues for volunteers who are in non-leadership roles.



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## OTHER NEWS - ONUS SAFE PLACE

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There is a growing awareness within the Church and the wider community of the need to address the hidden issue of domestic abuse. Anyone can experience domestic abuse regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexuality, social class, or geography. The Diocese continues to be committed to playing its role in increasing an understanding and awareness of this issue and supporting the work of the statutory and voluntary sector. One of the ways in which the Diocese can do this is through the initiative by ONUS called “safe place” .



### **What is Safe Place?**

“Safe Place” is an initiative that aims to create awareness of what domestic abuse is, who is affected and the range of support available locally.

### **What does it involve?**

Your Parish can become a ‘Safe Place’. To become a “Safe Place”, Parishes need to attend a Safe Place webinar and complete a simple registration form. You are then supplied with a range of ‘Safe Place’ resources and ongoing support from Onus. The Safe Place initiative does not involve providing direct support services.

\*The registration with ONUS as “Safe Place” must be renewed every 3 years.

### **What to do next?**

Please link in with your Safeguarding Committee Chair if you are interested in attending a webinar. We would encourage that each Parish has 3 participants who are able to attend the webinar.

You can register for one of our upcoming webinars by completing the relevant registration form in the links below:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) 08th November Evening Session 6:30pm-7:30pm

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) 23rd November Lunchtime Session 12:30pm-1:30pm

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## VETTING

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Always check with the vetting office before you start the vetting process that you have the most recent version of all forms and the Access Ni PIN code.

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](mailto:vetting@soddc.org)



## OUR SAFEGUARDING WEBSITE

This is just a reminder of what is available on the Safeguarding Office Website. The information on the website is categorised under headings such as Training, Vetting, News, How to Report a Concern. The website is organised so that you can easily find the material that is of relevance.

### [OUR WEBSITE](#)



### REPORTING A CONCERN

Under this tile you will find information on how to report a safeguarding concern in relation to a child or young person. Please click on the link below where you can find information on Reporting a Concern:

[REPORT A CONCERN](#)



### TRAINING

Under this heading you will find the Training Calendar, how to register for training and other training information such as ACE's and ONUS Safe Place. Please click on the link below where you can access our training Information:

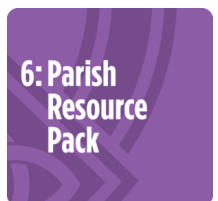
[TRAINING](#)



### PARISH RESOURCES

Under this heading you will find the Parish Resource Pack and relevant forms such as Child and Guardian Joint Consent, Use of Church Property by External Groups Form, Sacristy Register. Please click on the link below where you can access parish resources:

[PARISH RESOURCE PACK](#)



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## USEFUL CONTACTS

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<b>TOWARDS PEACE</b>	00353 (1) 505 3028 00353 (0) 8677 10533	<a href="https://towardspeace.ie/">https://towardspeace.ie/</a>
<b>TOWARDS HEALING</b>	NI Freephone 0800 0963315	<a href="https://towardshealing.ie/">https://towardshealing.ie/</a>

### **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

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

#### **Regional Emergency Social Work Service:**

Tel: 0800 1979995  
Email: [resws1@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:resws1@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

### **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: 08001979995  
Email: [resws1@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:resws1@belfasttrust.hscni.net)