



Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly



Issue 1

Newsletter from
The Diocesan Committee for Safeguarding Children

December 2012

Diocesan Committee for Safeguarding

Children:

Sr. Carmel Bourke.
Rev. Thomas Fogarty
Mr. Willie Hardiman
Rev. Martin Hayes
Ms. Breda McCormack
Mr. Andy Meaney
Ms. Mairead Stapleton
Ms. Marian Whyte

Role:

Our role is supportive and developmental and not in any way related to the management of individual cases of suspected or alleged abuse. The committee has responsibility for the provision of training and the safe recruitment of volunteers and staff within the service area.

Our role is primarily focused on creating, maintaining and monitoring a safe environment for children in all aspects of Church life and activity and for advising on the human resources required for implementing best safeguarding practice across services.

Our work to-date has largely been the updating of the current **Safeguarding Children Standards and Guidance Policy Document** which must be reviewed every three years.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. Bill Meagher, Designated Officer who attends our meetings and who is of tremendous assistance and support.

Archbishop's Welcome:

*I warmly welcome this First Edition of the Safeguarding Children Newsletter. **Start spreading the News!** And the news is good! The Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly continues its wholehearted commitment to creating a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults while they are in the care or in contact with the Church or its personnel. During the past twelve years a tremendous amount of work has been done and every effort has been made to ensure that the level of care and protection provided by the diocese is of the highest standard. We have developed, renewed and revised our policies and procedures over the years. We always endeavour to ensure good working relationships with the Gardaí, the HSE and the National Office for Safeguarding Children. I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this very important work.*

*And so, I am delighted to welcome the first edition of the **Safeguarding Children Newsletter** published by the Archdiocese Of Cashel and Emly Safeguarding Committee. The newsletter outlines the structure for safeguarding children in the Diocese, it gives a brief insight into some of the actions that the Diocese has taken to safeguard children and it provides information on upcoming training and working with vulnerable adults.*

Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message is one of the seven Standards laid down by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church and it is a key requirement of diocesan policy - Safeguarding Children in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly.

*At the recent symposium **Towards Healing and Renewal** in Rome, Fr. Desmond Nair from South Africa, concluded his contribution as follows:*

"Sexual abuse of minors (and adults) by clergy and religious has caused great scandal and done inestimable damage to the Church. Failure to take decisive action and to implement preventative measures and opportunities for education would create even greater damage and indicate great irresponsibility. This scandal is a call to vigilance and transparency, to honesty and justice, to humility and holiness. If this call is heeded then the Church can continue to grow and be renewed into a loving, vibrant, caring and faith-filled community rooted in gospel values and authentic to its mission to serve God and humanity.

We commit to living in an even greater way the values of Jesus Our Lord and Saviour who said "Let the little children alone and do not stop them coming to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of Heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14).

Most Rev. Dermot Clifford, DD, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly.

How is the Diocese of Cashel and Emly safeguarding our children?

The Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. We recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people. We are committed to their protection and support in a way that promotes their human dignity and integrity as children of God. **The welfare of the child is always paramount.**

It is with this in mind that we have in place in all our 46 parishes in the Diocese parish representatives who oversee the implementation of our child safeguarding policy. Their contact details are displayed in the church/churches in every parish as is the telephone number of the Designated Officer, Mr. Bill Meagher.

Our Diocesan Trainers are: Mrs. Mary Shanahan, Fr. Tom Hearne, Ms. Mary Purcell and Mr. Willie Hardiman. Sr. Carmel Bourke is our Safeguarding Children Coordinator / Trainer.

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Q.1 Where can I access Safeguarding Children information?

There are a number of resources available to assist all personnel engaged in Church activities to safeguard children.

- **The Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures Document** is available in all parishes and can be viewed on www.office@cashel-emly.ie
- **The Cashel and Emly Archdiocesan Policy Statement** and the Designated Officer's contact details are both available in the porch of all churches in the Archdiocese and on the website: www.office@cashel-emly.ie
- **The Safeguarding Children Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland** is available in all parishes or can be downloaded from the National Office for Safeguarding Children at www.safeguarding.ie
- **Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children**, Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs: www.dcyia.ie
- **Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook**, Health Executive: www.hse.ie

Q.2 What are Child Protection Concerns?

Child protection concerns are suspicions or allegations that a child has been abused, is being abused or is at risk of being abused.

Q.3 What is the role of the Parish Safeguarding Representative?

The principal duties are; to be available to anyone in the parish who may have a child protection concern and to advise them to whom it should be reported. Also to raise awareness within the parish about good safeguarding practices and to ensure, along with the parish clergy, that these practices are implemented.

Q.4 What is child abuse?

There are four recognised forms of child abuse:

- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse

Q.5 Is Garda Vetting required for all Church personnel?

Yes. Garda vetting is a requirement for all Church personnel who have direct access to children.

Q6. What is meant by safeguarding?

Safeguarding refers to the measures that are taken to ensure that the Church is a safe place for children. These measures are set out in Chapter 3 : [Preventing Harm to Children in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures.](#)

Q.7 Can a report be made directly to the HSE or to the Garda or should the concern be reported directly to the D.O. for the Diocese?

Yes. A person can report directly to the HSE (Health Service Executive) or to the Garda Síochána. The numbers of the local offices are available on the Archdiocesan Policy Statement in the Church, on the website, the Garda website or from the telephone directory services. If it is considered that the child is at immediate risk and it is not possible to contact the HSE or if it is out of hours, contact the Gardai. If the concern relates to a priest or to a parish or diocesan worker the concern should be reported to the Designated Officer for the Diocese.

Q.8 If there are mixed choirs (comprised of children and adults) in parishes at all times or only on occasions, eg. Christmas/ Easter should all adults sign the declaration form and have garda vetting?

Yes. As for all church activities where adults have access to children the adults have to sign the declaration form and be garda vetted.

Q.9 Is the Children First Guidance mandatory?

At the present time reporting is not mandatory. However, it is good practice and it is the responsibility and duty of all professionals to comply with the guidance. Also the Government has approved legislation which in time will provide for mandatory reporting of all child abuse, allegations or concerns.

This legislation will apply to all organisations working with children including statutory, community and voluntary.



Q.10 With regard to the use of the parish hall, should users of the hall sign the church policy or should they use their own policy?

Where people hire the hall to run an activity it is recommended that they sign the church policy.

Q.11 Is there a need for a Code of Behaviour for Children and should the children be involved in the drawing up of this code?

Yes. It is good practice to have a code of behaviour for children and yes, they should be involved in drawing up the code. There is a sample code of behaviour for children available in Standard 3 of the Archdiocesan Policies and Procedures.

Q.12 What is the guidance in relation to use of photographs and also in relation to photographers taking photographs in the church or at church functions?

Please ensure that the parents / children consent to the use of an image / photograph and that this consent is recorded. Photographs should not be displayed or used with the child's full name or detailed address. It is not possible to govern what use photographers will make of photographs / images. At present photographers are not prohibited from taking photographs in churches.

Form 5 A

The Committee for Safeguarding Children has decided to amend some forms in the suite of forms already in parishes. It is proposed to retain Form 5 which has to be signed by all staff and volunteers working within the Church. However with 46 parishes in the Diocese it would be impractical to ask for a photocopy of Form 5 to be returned to Sr. Carmel as proof of compliance. There will now be a second form, Form 5A which will be signed by the Parish Priest to testify that all have signed up to our policy and this form will be returned to Sr. Carmel Bourke. A change of Parish Priest in a particular parish would require the new P.P. to sign a new Form 5A. This new form was sent to parishes in September 2012.

Parish Deanery Presentation Nights

Our trainers completed presentations in our parishes on June 19th 2012. A number of questions arising from these meetings were dealt with on the night but for the sake of clarity we have included a number of frequently asked questions in this issue.

Please see inside this issue for some of those questions and you may also check our website:
www.office@cashel-emly.ie

Monitoring Day for Diocesan Trainers.

Three of our Diocesan Trainers, Sr. Carmel Bourke, Fr. Tom Hearne and Mrs. Mary Shanahan were monitored by the National Board on April 27th in St. Patrick's College. Our thanks to all the Parish Representatives who gave of their time and energy for the duration of the monitoring. Congratulations also to our trainers on their excellent work.

Polish Language Notices in Churches

It is recognised by the Committee for Safeguarding Children that there is a need to have the Policy Statement translated into Polish for the Polish faithful and this statement should be posted in all our Parish churches beside the English version. A copy will be delivered to Parishes.

Taken from the summary of the findings of the Apostolic Visitation in Ireland January 2011

Judged to be excellent in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly

The visitation to the Dioceses was carried out in the four Metropolitan Sees, Armagh, Dublin, Cashel & Emly and Tuam, during the first few months of 2011. The visitation was pastoral in nature; the Holy Father's intention was that it should (1.) "assist the local Church on her path of renewal". It was not intended to supersede or replace the ordinary responsibility of Bishops and Religious Superiors, nor to interfere (2.) "with the ordinary activity of the local magistrates, nor with the activity of the Commissions of Investigation established by the Irish Parliament, nor with the work of any legislative authority, which has competence in the area of prevention of abuse of minors".

The four Visitors, accompanied by qualified and authorized persons, and in coordination with the Archbishops of the Sees concerned, met individuals from the various categories listed in the Communiqué of 12 November 2010, along with others who requested a hearing, including representatives of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church. Special priority was given to the meetings with victims of abuse, who were assured of the particular closeness of the Holy Father. With a great sense of shame and pain, it must be acknowledged that within the Christian community innocent young people were abused by clerics and Religious to whose care they had been entrusted, while those who should have exercised vigilance often failed to do so effectively.

At the same time the Visitors were able to verify that, beginning in the 1990s, progressive steps have been taken towards a greater awareness of how serious the problem of abuse is, both in the Church and society and how it is to find adequate measures in response.

The Visitation was also intended to determine whether the structures and procedures put in place by the Church in Ireland from that period onwards are adequate to ensure that the tragedy of abuse of minors will not be repeated.

The Visitors were struck by the efforts made throughout the country by Bishops, Priests, Religious and lay persons to implement the Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland and to create safe environments. In the four Archdioceses the results were judged to be excellent.

In addition to the large numbers of volunteers, they noted the presence of men and women within the various safeguarding structures who bring the highest level of professionalism to the service of the Church.

Particular praise was given to Archbishop Clifford for having nominated a very good Designated Officer, namely Mr. Bill Meagher, Diocesan Delegate for Cashel and Emly and Cloyne.

1. Quoted from *The pastoral Letter of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland, 19 March 2010.*

2. Quoted from *Communiqué of the Holy See Press Office, 12th November 2010*

Archdiocese of Cashel and Emlý

Contact Details for Child Safeguarding and Useful Help Lines. Diocesan Child Protection Contact Details.

If you have a child protection concern or wish to report an allegation, please contact one of the following:

- **Archdiocese of Cashel and Emlý, Designated Officer: 087 7914517**

- **HSE Health Service Executive Duty Social Worker:**

Limerick: 061 482792

North Tipperary: 067 38300

South Tipperary: 052 6170931

- **The Gardaí:**

Thurles: 0504 25100. Templemore: 0504 31011. Bruff: 061 382940. Limerick, Henry Street: 212400.

Cashel: 062 75840. Tipperary: 062 51212. Clonmel: 052 6177640. Cahir: 052 7445630.

For further information on local Garda stations see www.garda.ie

- **HSE National Information Helpline: 1850 24 1850 (callsave)** This information line can be contacted from 8.00a.m. to 8.00p.m. Monday to Saturday. For further HSE services see www.hse.ie

- **National Office for Safeguarding Children:**

All Church organisations and personnel can access specialist advice about Safeguarding Children issues through the National Office and contact the National Board. National Office for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland: New House, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 505 3124. Fax: 01 505 3026.

Website: www.safeguarding.ie

Towards Healing: A free and confidential helpline and counselling service for survivors of clerical and religious abuse.

Helpline Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays...11.00a.m. to 8.00p.m. Fridays...11.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.

Freephone (Ireland)...1800 303416. Freephone (N. Ireland and UK) 0800 0963315

Or contact: info@towardshealing.ie <http://www.towardshealing.ie>

Archdiocese keeps "Good Quality" Records – HSE Audit.

Article written by Eoin Kelly, taken from *The Tipperary Star* 18 / 10 / 2012

The Archdiocese of Cashel and Emlý, with a Catholic population of 82,000, has produced a policy document called "Safeguarding Children Standards and Guidance Document" which was launched by Archbishop Dermot Clifford in March 2010. The Archdiocese of Cashel and Emlý was seen to keep good records and has committed resources to the implementation of the Policy through the establishment of a Diocesan Committee for Safeguarding Children, the appointment of a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Mr. Bill Meagher and is providing resources for the training of Church Personnel. Arrangements are in place to monitor compliance with child protection policies and procedures through forms that are in place within parishes and the audits that take place annually. Parishes are visited to verify that posters are displayed. There are processes in place to consult children and young people and parents as part of the review of safeguarding policies and procedures. Full report at www.hse.ie

Children learn what they live

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance and friendship,

They learn to find love in the world.

