

## **Report on Parish Safeguarding Self-Audits**

### **Diocese of Ardagh & Clonmacnois 2016**

All audits were completed and returned

**Section 1:** Lists of those working with children/vulnerable adults have been comprised in parishes. Responses from two parishes indicated that they did not realize this section included those involved with servers.

#### **Section 2: Church group/organisations working directly or indirectly with children and young people**

Child and guardian Consent Forms, that include a Media Permission Section, have been signed. Adequate supervision is in place in parishes. Parents have been made aware of the relevant procedures. Parishes are currently updating practice in line with the 2016 revised guidance and three parishes are making the procedure for dealing with accidents available to relevant personnel. Some parishes also need to conduct the new Hazard Assessment recommended in the revised guidelines.

#### **Section 3: Non-church groups working with children/young people/vulnerable adults**

One parish is in the process of ascertaining whether their adult groups (AA and Active Age) using church property have adequate insurance and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

Another parish is also in the process of ensuring the groups using their parish hall have the necessary policies in place.

**Section 4. Recruitment:** Parishes are implementing the recruitment policy re vetting, declaration forms, volunteer forms and references. Responses from five parishes, however, indicated that they interpreted this section as referring only to employed personnel. Five parishes were in the process of updating documentation and Vetting. Seven parishes indicated that they need to implement the recommendation in the new guidance re circulating the Whistleblowing policy.

**Section 5. Induction:** Relevant church personnel have been shown the child safeguarding policy/vulnerable adult's policy.

## **Section 6. Safeguarding Awareness Training:**

All clergy have attended safeguarding training. In 2016, 40 priests attended the update in June or in April. All Local Safeguarding Representatives have attended safeguarding training. In 2016, 43 attended an update. 62 people attended the Diocesan Safeguarding Conference, 22 priests, 23 Local Safeguarding Representatives and 17 parishioners.

Leaders of groups involved with young people from twenty four parishes attended the full safeguarding training.

Twenty two parishes indicated that they had people attend an information session

**Section 7. Safeguarding Training Needs:** Three parishes requested training for new Local Safeguarding Representatives. Four parishes need training for those involved with young people who were unable to attend previous sessions. One parish requested training for those involved with vulnerable adults while another parish was in the process of organising an information session.

**Section 8 Safeguarding Awareness with parents/guardians parishioners:** At least 12 parishes had information sessions for parents. Other parishes distributed the Safeguarding Information Leaflet with the Child & Guardian Consent Form.

**Section 9 Support:** All parishes answered in the affirmative that there was a system of support for all church personnel involved in safeguarding.

## **Section 10 Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message**

Information on the church's safeguarding policy, contact details for the Designated Liaison Person, Social Services and Gardaí are displayed in all appropriate places. Where it is relevant, responses indicated that the safeguarding message is available in accessible format for those whose first language is not English.

**Section 11** All parishes reported that application forms, consent forms, attendance lists are stored securely.

*All self-audit forms were returned and have been completed. Responses reflect the sincere effort that Priests and Local Safeguarding Representatives are making to ensure best practice in Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults.*