

## **Report on the work of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee 2015**

**Membership:** Bishop Francis Duffy, Liam Faughnan (Chairperson), Fr. Michael Bannon, Anita Allen, Evelyn Breen, Sean Leydon, Philomena Lynch, Fr. Liam Murray, Fr. Tom Murray, Roisin O'Doherty & Úna Purcell.

### **Meetings**

The committee met on five occasions, in January, March, May, September and November.

Minutes of each meeting were recorded.

### **Areas of work addressed by the committee**

#### **Auditing and review**

The Report on Parish Self-Audits and the results of Diocesan Audit 2014 were finalised and submitted to NBSCCCI. The report on the Parish Self-Audits was sent to Parish Priests and Safeguarding Representatives with the recommendation that it be read at a Parish Pastoral Council Meeting.

#### **NBSCCCI Revision of Policy and Standards**

Some members attended consultation meetings on the revised policy and participated in a working group.

##### **Development/Review of Policies**

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy was introduced.

The Safeguarding Children Revised Policy, Standards and Indicators were reviewed and our suggestions were sent to the NBSCCCI. The revised Parish Self-Audit and register of attendance were also reviewed. We discussed the proposed Revised Policy on use of videos/photos and webcams, communicated our suggestions to the NBSCCCI and advised relevant parishes. Practice Issues were clarified as required.

#### **Training and support:**

Training and discussed at each meeting. Training returns were forwarded to the NBSCCCI and to the area tutor Sandra Neville. The Safeguarding Children Annual Training plan was prepared. The committee attended training delivered by the NBSCCCI in February. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Training was organised for clergy, LSR's and parish volunteers.

Members of the Safeguarding Committee attended the National Safeguarding Conference in February.

#### **Communication of the safeguarding message:**

A Safeguarding Conference was held in April. It was attended by over 90 people, including LSR, clergy, a representative of An Garda Síochana, HSE/Tusla staff, parish volunteers, religious and members of Parish Pastoral Councils.

The keynote speakers were Úna Allen, (Towards Peace), Niall Moore (NBSCCCI) and Fr. Frank Murray. Bishop Francis launched the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy at the conference.

Parents & children in three parishes were consulted via questionnaire regarding their views on the current safeguarding procedures.

Safeguarding Information Leaflets for parents and staff were prepared and distributed to LSR's. Child Friendly Safeguarding Leaflets were also distributed.

The Report on the Parish Self-Audits was posted on the website.

A Diocesan Safeguarding Newsletter was produced and circulated widely.

The NBSCCCI Newsletters were emailed to Safeguarding Personnel.

The 3year Safeguarding Action Plan 2013-2015 was reviewed in January and November. (P.T.O.)

Reports from the Committee Meetings were sent to the Parish Priests and Local Safeguarding Representatives.

An invitation to those who have suffered abuse to make contact with the DLP was issued in the Advent Parish Newsletters.

**Membership:**

Anita Allen retired from the committee.