



# **Annual Report**

**Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee**

**2014**



**Raphoe Safeguarding Services  
Diocesan Pastoral Centre  
Letterkenny  
Co. Donegal.**

## POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE



On the 2nd of February 2015 Pope Francis issued a Letter on the Protection of Minors. In his letter he states:

*"At my meeting in July with persons who had suffered sexual abuse by priests, I was deeply moved by their witness to the depth of their sufferings and the strength of their faith. This experience reaffirmed my conviction that everything possible must be done to rid the Church of the scourge of the sexual abuse of minors and to open pathways of reconciliation and healing for those who were abused."*

*"Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home. Consequently, priority must not be given to any other kind of concern, whatever its nature, such as the desire to avoid scandal, since there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors."*



<b>CONTENTS:</b>	
<b>Foreword - Bishop Boyce</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chairperson's Address</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NEWS AND UPDATES</b>	
• Retirement of Training Co-ordinator and new appointment	5
• National Board – New Chief Executive Officer	6
• Revision on Standards and Guidance	6
• Legislative Update	7
- Children First Bill 2014	7
- National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012	7
- Criminal Justice Act 2012	7
• Revision of Diocesan Policy & Procedures Booklet	8
- Policy on the Use of CCTV & Webcams	8
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.	8
• Garda Vetting	9
- Update of Garda Vetting in the Diocese	9
- Frequently Asked Questions	9
<b>OVERVIEW OF TRAINING PROGRAMME 2014</b>	
• Safeguarding Training 2014	10
- Feedback from participants	11
- Safeguarding Sunday	11
- Parish Self Audits	11
- Outcomes	12
<b>SAFEGUARDING PERSONNEL</b>	
• Key Personnel and Contact numbers	13
<b>OBJECTIVE FOR 2015</b>	<b>14</b>



**Tel: 074 9121208**

**Email: [raphoediocese@eircom.net](mailto:raphoediocese@eircom.net)**

## **FOREWORD – BISHOP PHILIP BOYCE, O.C.D.**

The Annual Report of the Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee comes out faithfully each year. I congratulate the members of the Committee for producing this present Report which covers the year 2014. All are to be commended for their competent and conscientious work.

Sound structures are in place to protect children in the Diocese and to ensure that they have a safe environment for work and play in their local parish.

I thank all who are engaged in this important task of safeguarding children.

*+ Philip Boyce, O.C.D.*

+ Philip Boyce, OCD  
Bishop of Raphoe

## **Chairperson's Address.**

This Report outlines the ongoing work of the Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee for the period of 2014.

Over the last twelve months the Diocese of Raphoe through the Safeguarding Office has continued its work in promoting safeguarding in all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults. In ensuring that all church personnel are up to date, the Diocesan Policy & Procedures Booklet has been updated and reprinted in November 2014 and is available on-line at [www.raphoediocese.ie](http://www.raphoediocese.ie) or by contacting the Safeguarding Office. I would like to acknowledge the good work of our Committee in giving their time, experience and expertise to this important work.

In June of this year, Sr. Mary O'Donovan retired from her role as Safeguarding Co-ordinator but thankfully will continue to offer her support and deliver training along with our other 3 Safeguarding Trainers. Our sincere well wishes to Sr. Mary on her retirement and enormous thanks for the tremendous work she has done in promoting safeguarding in the diocese.

Throughout the year we regularly call on the National Board for advice and clarification on various queries which arise. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their availability, support and clear guidance given. Our Committee would also like to thank Niall Moore and Colette Stevenson for delivering Committee Training in September 2014. It was a very informative session and gave great clarity on the role of the committee.

I wish also to thank Bishop Philip Boyce and all the Clergy of the parish for their ongoing commitment and support to the work of the Committee in maintaining and developing best practice in safeguarding children and young people in the Diocese of Raphoe.

*M. O'Connell*

**Chairperson Child Safeguarding Committee**

## News and Updates

### Sr. Mary O'Donovan retires as Safeguarding Co-ordinator.



A native of Kinsale, County Cork, Sr. Mary O'Donovan has spent over 50 years in Donegal, and is still a Cork supporter! She began her teaching career as an art teacher in Ballyshannon and taught there for over 21 years. In 1992 she worked as Chaplain in Letterkenny General Hospital. She was appointed Director to the Family Ministry for the Diocese in 1992. This work involved the initiation, development, and implementation of educational, developmental and support programmes for parents and families in all stages of the life cycle. It also involved liaising with and networking with statutory and voluntary bodies at diocesan and national level. Personal Counselling, Bereavement Counselling and Family Mediation were further services which were offered to families through Family Ministry. In 1993 she was appointed Director of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny which involved co-ordination of the various services of the Pastoral Centre and administration of the Centre.

In 2005, Sr. Mary and John Kennedy were appointed Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers and in 2006 they began their training in Maynooth on "Best Practice in Child Protection" and were accredited by the Volunteer Development Organisation (VDA) and Open University, Belfast. In August 2009 the National Board for Safeguarding Children was established with the key responsibility of assisting those implementing safeguarding policy and procedures throughout the Church in Ireland to achieve a consistent up-to-date standard of best practice. Sr. Mary, along with John Kennedy and with the support of Bishop Boyce and the Safeguarding Committee have worked tirelessly in promoting best practice in safeguarding children in the Diocese of Raphoe. Thankfully she will continue to offer her support to the work of the Safeguarding Office and deliver training along with John Kennedy, Barry Ramsay and Margaret Northage (Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers).

### Newly appointed Safeguarding Co-ordinator – Margaret Northage



Margaret Northage is a native of Downings, Co. Donegal. She is the mother to two boys. During her career, she has worked mostly in administration and finance. She returned to Donegal in 2002 having spent 10 years working in London. In November 2002 she was appointed administrator to the Donegal Peace Centre, Downings, a cross-border project under the EU Programme for Peace & Reconciliation. The project involved working with victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland including ex-prisoners and combatants in developing various workshops/conferences/master classes around inner peace & healing, providing a platform for both national and international speakers who worked in areas of conflict. The setting of the Centre in Downings, overlooking Sheephaven Bay, provided a safe place where people could tell their story, be listened to and begin the journey of healing.

In October 2010 she joined the Safeguarding Office as secretary working with Sr. Mary O'Donovan. In July 2013, Margaret and Barry Ramsay were appointed Safeguarding Trainers and became accredited by the National Board for Safeguarding in September 2013. She took up the role as Safeguarding Co-ordinator in June 2014 following the retirement of Sr. Mary.



Above: Teresa Devlin



Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer to the National Board for Safeguarding Children - (January 7<sup>th</sup> 2014).

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland has appointed Teresa Devlin as its new Chief Executive Officer. Mrs Devlin has been with the NBSCCCI since August 2008 and most recently had been filling the role of interim CEO. She takes over from Mr. Ian Elliot former CEO of the National Board.

## Revision of Safeguarding Children – Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church



The first Safeguarding Children document was drafted in 2008 and adopted by all Church bodies in 2009. You will recall reference to this manual at Safeguarding Training Sessions. Since then, experience in practice and in conducting reviews of safeguarding in dioceses and religious congregations, alongside proposed changes in legislation in ROI, developments in international best practice, recommendations following the Apostolic Visitation and requirements from the CDF, require that a review of those standards should now be undertaken. This is to ensure that the standards are still fit for purpose and consistent with best practice internationally.

The National Board appointed Grace Kelly as Project Manager with the task to lead a number of working groups to review and rewrite each standard and identify if there are gaps where new standards are required. The work commenced in June 2014 and it is anticipated that draft standards will be presented to the spring meeting (2015) of the Bishops' Conference, and to CORI and IMU for approval and adoption.

Bishop Boyce is involved in the working group- ***Standard 7: Implementing & Monitoring the Standards***. This has involved attending numerous meetings and providing feedback on this draft standard along with all the accompanying guidance documents and the newly proposed overarching policy.

### One Church Policy Child Safeguarding for Ireland

The intention is to have 'One Church Policy Child Safeguarding for Ireland' and for each Church authority to demonstrate implementation of that policy against 7 standards. This would enable greater clarity for the public on what the Catholic Church in Ireland's position is in relation to child safeguarding and remove the need for duplication of policy documents. It still requires each Church authority to implement the standards locally and evidence through local practice how they are meeting the standards.

The overarching policy is still a work in progress but it is expected to have the first draft circulated for consultation and feedback early in the New Year.

The National Board hope to deliver Training and Induction on the Revised Standards to Safeguarding Trainers from July to October 2015. This updated training will in turn be rolled out within the Diocese



from November 2015 and onwards to all staff and volunteers who work with or have access to children. All clergy, Parish Representatives and Group Leaders working with children will be required to attend this new updated training.

## **Legislative Update ROI**

### **Children First Bill 2014**

The purpose of this Bill is to ‘make further and better provision for the care and protection of children including raising awareness of child abuse and neglect, providing for reporting and management of child protection concerns and improving child protection arrangements in organisations providing services to children’. Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011 (under review) will operate side by side with this Bill.

The measure was first called for 21 years ago and was recommended by the 2009 Ryan Report on institutional child abuse.

#### **The Bill sets out that:**

Specified individuals have a legal duty to report child protection concerns to the Child and Family Agency. Mandated individuals are listed in Schedule 2 of the Bill and include doctors, nurses, social care and social workers, teachers, foster carers, managers of domestic violence shelters, homeless hostels and asylum seeker accommodation, child protection officers of religious, sporting, recreational, cultural, and educational organisations and specified pre-school and youth workers. Under Section 11(1&2), individuals are mandated to report if he or she “knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect” or where a child has disclosed to him or her “that a child (a) has been harmed, (b) is being harmed, or (c) is at risk of being harmed”. Section 11(3) addresses the duty to report in relation to concerns regarding children engaged in sexual activity. In addition, provisions will be put in place to avoid the duplication of reports by mandated individuals.

Mandated individuals have a legal duty, if requested, to assist the Child and Family Agency in the child protection assessment under Section 13. This provision also provides that the Child and Family Agency may share information about the assessment with the mandated individual who is assisting them.

### **National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 (not yet commenced)**

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Person) Act 2012 was enacted in December 2012 and is scheduled to commence in November/December 2014. The Act provides a legislative basis for the mandatory vetting of persons who wish to undertake certain work or activities relating to children or vulnerable adults or to provide certain services to children or vulnerable adults.

This act applies to all persons working in a ‘relevant work or activity’ relating to children or vulnerable persons including:

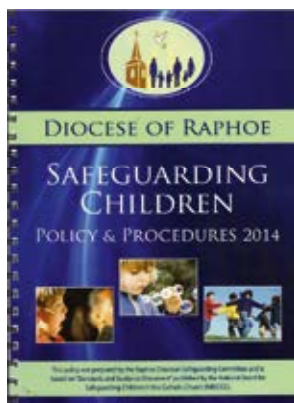
- Pre-schools/schools/centre of education/Home Tutors.
- Hospitals/Special Care Units
- *Any work/activity as a minister or any other person engaged in the advancement of religious bodies*
- Any work which consists of treatment, therapy or counselling
- Any work that consists of care/supervision of children
- Any work that consists of the provision of advice, guidance or developmental services (including by electronic communication)

## Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012

A person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act if:

- (a) he or she knows or believes that an arrestable offence as listed in the schedule of the Act, has been committed by another person against a child or a vulnerable person and
- (b) he or she has information which he or she knows or believes might be of material assistance in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of that other person for that offence, and fails without reasonable excuse to disclose that information as soon as practicable to do so to a member of the Garda Siobhan.

### New and updated policies:



#### Diocesan Policy & Procedures 2014 (Standard 1)

It is considered best practice that the Diocesan Policy & Procedures Booklet is updated every 3 years, or as new legislation and other updating from the National Board is advised. The booklet was updated and reprinted in November 2014 and includes the following additional policies:

1. Grievance Policy
2. Whistle Blowing Policy
3. Equality Policy

My thanks to all who have contributed to this publication and to all who are part of our safeguarding structures at both diocesan and parish level. With this said it is important to stress that ***everyone has a duty and obligation to protect children***. As a community of faith both the laity and clergy of our diocese are called to develop, sustain and promote a culture of safety for our children at all times.

### Policy on the Use of CCTV & Webcams

The expanded use of CCTV and the internet has wide implications and unless such systems are used with proper care and consideration they can give rise to concern that the individual's 'private space' is being unreasonably invaded or eroded. A policy is currently being drafted setting out clear guidance on the use of CCTV and webcams.

### Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

A Vulnerable Person is an adult who may be restricted in capacity to guard himself / herself against harm or exploitation or to report such harm or exploitation.

Restriction of capacity may arise as a result of physical or intellectual impairment. Vulnerability to abuse is influenced by both context and individual circumstances.

This Policy document will give clear guidelines on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults along with information on the Role Description of Eucharistic Minister to the Housebound and Code of Conduct for those who minister to Vulnerable Adults.

Copies of all of the above will be available from the Safeguarding Office in the New Year.



## Garda Vetting in the Diocese of Raphoe – Standard 3



All diocesan personnel, paid workers and volunteers who have significant access to children in the Diocese of Raphoe must undergo Garda Vetting. Gardaí Vetting is required in order to create safer environments for children in accordance with **Standard 3 – Preventing Harm to Children**. Garda Vetting is a necessary step in the recruitment of all staff and volunteers working with children.

*Please note that the Garda Vetting form was revised in August 2014 and only this newly amended version will be accepted.* Garda Vetting Forms are available from the Safeguarding Office or at [www.raphoediocese.ie](http://www.raphoediocese.ie).

Mr. John Murphy, Forquar, Milford is the authorised signatory for all diocesan Garda Vetting for the Diocese of Raphoe. By the end of 2014, 1087 diocesan personnel had been or were in the process of being vetted. The vetting period is currently between 4 – 6 weeks.

It is imperative when completing a Garda Vetting Form that **all questions are fully answered** otherwise the process will be delayed. Please remember to always include a contact telephone number in order that the authorised signatory can clarify any details with you. It is also important to give the details of the organisation for which you are seeking employment/voluntary work as they will require the outcome of the vetting to be forwarded to them. The name of the organisation can be written in pencil at the top of the form.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Who should undergo garda vetting?

Anyone appointed to a role that will give rise to substantial or unsupervised access to children, young people and/or vulnerable adults need to undergo vetting.

#### How long is vetting valid for?

Good practice indicates that re-vetting is conducted every 5 years on average.

#### What about vetting for youth leaders under 18 years old?

It is best practice to ensure that junior leaders under 18 years of age are supported by an adult(s) and do not have overall supervision responsibility for a group of young people. The consent of a parent is required for vetting persons less than 18 years of age.

#### Is Garda Vetting a legal requirement?

There is currently no legal requirement for vetting, however, The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 was enacted in December 2012, and was due to commence in late 2014. This legislation is part of a suite of complementary legislative proposals to strengthen child protection.

#### What number should I use to contact the Gardaí?

The number that should be used is the National Bureau of Criminal Investigations in Harcourt Square Dublin. This is the central office for the investigation of child protection concerns. All allegations are processed through the central team who in turn decide whether to allocate to the local Garda for investigation.

**National Bureau of Criminal Investigations**

**Telephone: 00353 1 6663436**

**In case of an emergency, contact:**

**Letterkenny Garda Station**

**Telephone: 074 91 67100**

## Safeguarding Training 2014 (Standard 4)

### *Training the Trainers - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014*

Updated training for trainers delivered by the National Board for Safeguarding Children, Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Attended by Sr. Mary O'Donovan, Margaret Northage and John Kennedy (Safeguarding Trainers).

### *Parish Information Evening 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

Held in the Parish of Kilbarron (Ballyshannon). In attendance were 1 Clergy, members of Children's Liturgy Group & Altar Servers, Eucharist Ministers, Ministers of the Word, Choir members 7 Hospitality Group. **Total: 32 participants.**

### *Data Protection Training for Designated Liaison Officers – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014*

Venue: Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth. Attended by Kathleen Gallagher, Diocesan Designated Liaison Officer.

### *Parish Information Evening - 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014*

Held in the Parish of Clondahorey (Dunfanaghy & Creeslough). In attendance were 2 Clergy, Sacristan, Parish Representatives and other parishioners. **Total: 7 participants.**

### *Training the Trainers – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014*

Updated training for trainers delivered by the National Board for Safeguarding Children, Columba Centre in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Attended by Barry Ramsay (Safeguarding Trainer).

### *Parish Information Evening – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

Held in the Parish of Townawilly (Donegal Town, Ballyshannon, Clar, Killymard & Kilcar). In attendance were 5 Clergy, 7 Parish Reps, sacristan, members of choir, children's liturgy.

**Total: 35 participants**

### *Parish information Evening – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

Held in the Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny. (areas included Letterkenny, Drumkeen, Kilmacrennan, Ramelton, Creeslough & Newtowncunningham) In attendance were 4 Clergy, 3 Parish representatives, choir members, children's liturgy & leaders of altar servers.

**Total: 31 participants.**

### *Training for Safeguarding Committees/Co-ordinators – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014*

Delivered by Niall Moore, Training Manager and Sr. Colette Stevenson of *the National Board* in the *Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny* on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. In Attendance were Bishop Boyce, 5 Committee members & 4 Safeguarding Trainers. Items included: Seven Standards, What Safeguarding Means, Who Safeguards, Child Protection Personnel & the Role of the Safeguarding Committee.

### *National Vetting Bureau – updating on Children & Vulnerable Persons Act 2012 & Garda Vetting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014*

Attended by John Murphy and Fr. Michael Mc Keever (Authorised signatories for Diocesan Garda Vetting).

### *Parish Information Session – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014*

*Held in Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny*, (Conwal & Leck, Drumkeen, Staff from John Paul 11 Awards and Cathedral Volunteers). In attendance: 1 Clergy, Choir Director, Parish Committee + Co-ordinator and 2 volunteers. **Total: 5 participants.**

### ***Parish Information Session – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014.***

Held in Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny for volunteers of Mary's Meals. ("Mary's Meals" are part of an international movement who have set up school feeding projects in communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Their work in the parish brings them into schools to talk to children about "Mary's Meals" hence the requirement to have child protection training). The group requested an updating Training Session having last done training in May 2011. **Total: 9 participants.**

## **FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS AT SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**



The following is a selection of comments by participants from feedback received at various training sessions:

"Every effort is being made in the Diocese for protection of children".

"Would like more prominent display e.g. bibs or t-shirt to show parish/laity helpers".

"There is a need to keep continuous training like this going for everyone involved at every level in the parish".

"Be vigilant and take action – Apply these guidelines".

"Keep brushing up every year!"

"Safeguarding children is paramount but they must have fun"

"Vitaly important to report and look into any abuse seen or heard – children go first".

"Knowing the Seven Standards and how they are applied".

"We are all responsible for safeguarding of children".

"How precious our children are".



### **Safeguarding Sunday – proposed for New Year**

As part of our continuous work in communicating the Church's safeguarding message (**Standard 5**), the Safeguarding Committee along with Bishop Boyce have agreed on plans to hold a Safeguarding Sunday early in the New Year. It was suggested that Sunday 18th January would be a suitable date but obviously parishes could work around this date depending on their own schedule. All parishes will be provided with guidelines and information on holding a Safeguarding Sunday along with the Parish Newsletter (January 2015) for distribution to parishioners. Parishes will also continue to receive safeguarding bulletins for inclusion in the parish newsletter on a quarterly basis.

## **Parish Self Audits 2013 - (Standard 7 – Implementing and Monitoring the Standards)**

Parish Self Audits are carried out on an annual basis. The format of the Audit form is based on the Seven Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland together with National Guidelines. The completion of the Audit is a requirement of the National Board for all parishes throughout Ireland, North and South. The self-audit tool is a way of measuring how close your parish is to meeting the Seven Standards for keeping children safe. 39 out of 41 audits for 2013 have been returned to the Safeguarding Office. We wish to thank you all, our clergy and parish representative for their help and cooperation in doing so. If you require any assistance for clarification in completing your Parish Audit, please contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny on 074 91 25669.

### **Outcome of Parish Self-Audits.**

All returned audits reported compliance with all Seven Standards and no issues were identified.

Having examined all 39 audits, activity involving children shows the following:

<b>Name of Activity</b>	<b>No of parishes</b>
No activity involving children (as listed below)	9
Altar Servers	22
Children's Liturgy	5
Children's Choir/Folk Choir	15
Junior Pioneer	1
Intermediate Legion of Mary	1
Youth Prayer Group	1

All parishes however run First Eucharist, Confirmation programmes, school visits to local church with a small number involved in the John Paul II Awards. It should be noted also that Donegal has a large rural community and in the smaller parishes it can be difficult to get children involved in church activity.

The Census of 2011 showed DONEGAL to have the largest Catholic population in the county since 1891.

## **SAFEGUARDING PERSONNEL:**

### **Safeguarding Committee:**

Mary Callaghan, *Chairperson*  
John Murphy, *Vice Chair*  
Fr. Gerard Cunningham  
Seamus Gallagher  
Cathal Quinn  
Ciaran Maguire  
Bríd Carlin

### **Training Co-ordinator:**

Margaret Northage

### **Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers:**

Mary O'Donovan  
John Kennedy  
Margaret Northage  
Barry Ramsay

### **Diocesan Designated Officers:**

Kathleen Gallagher, 086 218 3011  
Paddy Mc Daid, 086 218 3022

### **Diocesan Support Persons:**

Moya Campbell, 074 9735309  
Jim Mc Glynn, 086 722 5153

### **Agencies offering advice and support:**

#### **National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church,**

New House,  
Saint Patrick's College,  
Maynooth,  
Co.Kildare.

Phone no: 01 505 3124

Fax: 01 505 3026

Website: [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) this is the website for the Health Service Executive. It has information on what child abuse is, how to deal with concerns and contact details on how to make reports.

**Childline 1800 666666** [www.childline.ie](http://www.childline.ie)

Provides a 24 hour listening service for children.

**Samaritans 1850609090** [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org),  
[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

#### **Towards Healing**

**1800303416** [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

Provides telephone counselling and psychotherapy referral service for people who have been abused by priests or religious.

#### **Connect 1800 235235**

[www.connectcounselling.ie](http://www.connectcounselling.ie)

This is a free telephone counselling service for any adult who has experienced abuse, trauma or neglect in childhood.

#### **National Counselling Service (NCS)**

**1800 235234**

This service is for adults who were abused in childhood and offers confidential face to face counselling.

[www.childprotection.ie](http://www.childprotection.ie) this is the website of the Child Protection Unit in the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI).

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2015.

The Safeguarding Committee along with laity and clergy of our diocese are committed to develop, sustain and promote a culture of safety for our children at all times. As we look to the year ahead, the Committee has a number of specific objectives for 2015.

1.	To continue to provide feedback to the National Board for Safeguarding Children on the - Revision of Safeguarding Children – Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church.
2.	To develop a three year Child Safeguarding Plan to monitor the effectiveness of the steps we are taking to keep children safe.
3.	To carry out a Training Needs Assessment on the diocese which will assist with the development of the three year Child Safeguarding Plan.
4.	To continue best practice in safeguarding children through delivering Safeguarding Training to newly appointed Parish Representatives, Group Leaders and any other volunteers.
5.	To provide Parish Information Sessions to parishioners who have already done the full day Safeguarding Training and require updating only.
6.	To arrange Parish Visits to ensure that there is an awareness of child safeguarding and the implementation of good practice. This will be conducted in a supportive way by providing guidance on safeguarding policy & procedures and providing posters, leaflets, copies of new additional policies, etc.
7.	To promote a Safeguarding Sunday by notifying parishes in advance of suggested date and providing guidance and information for distribution.
8.	To continue to promote the Church's Safeguarding message by circulating quarterly bulletins on Safeguarding to parishes for inclusion in their parish newsletter.
9.	To finalise and distribute new policies on The Use of Webcams & CCTV and Guidance on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.
10.	To publish a handbook for Safeguarding Representatives on <b><i>“The Practicalities of Safeguarding”</i></b> .
11.	To attend meetings of the Armagh Trainers Metropolitan Group, next meeting scheduled for 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Cavan. The group provide a forum for networking, updating and sharing information.
12.	To distribute the end-of-year <i>Parish Self Audit Document</i> of the National Board (NBSCCCI) to all parishes of the diocese in December 2015. Returns will be scrutinised for compliance by the Safeguarding Committee. Any issues identified will be incorporated into the three-year Child Safeguarding Plan.
13.	To keep the Diocesan website updated on any changes to include new material such as policies, standard forms, annual report, etc.
14.	To continue to work with the Safe & Secure Group in establishing Inter-agency links.
15.	To publish the next Annual Report for 2015 by March 2016.





**Tel: 074 9125669**

**E.mail: [cporaphoediocese@eircom.net](mailto:cporaphoediocese@eircom.net)**  
**[www.raphoediocese.ie](http://www.raphoediocese.ie)**



*May the Lord Jesus instil in each of us, as ministers of the Church, the same love and affection for the little ones which characterized his own presence among us, and which in turn enjoins on us a particular responsibility for the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. May Mary Most Holy, Mother of tenderness and mercy, help us to carry out, generously and thoroughly, our duty to humbly acknowledge and repair past injustices and to remain ever faithful in the work of protecting those closest to the heart of Jesus.*

*Pope Francis.*

