



Annual Report

Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

2015 TO 2016



No sacrifice on the part of adults is too great or costly to enable our children to grow and to safely preserve their growth.

POPE FRANCIS



"Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young."



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

This Report covers the year 2015 and 2016. It is the fruit of the work of the Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee who provide excellent services in the area of Child Safeguarding.

I thank all the members and praise them for the commitment and competency. Child Safeguarding is always an ongoing work and we can never slacken our efforts.

The Diocese values and encourages the participation of children and young people in church activities and wishes to provide a safe environment for them. The Report shows the effort that is made by many people to make the provision of safe environments a reality.

May God's blessing come upon it all.

+ Philip Boyce, O.C.D.

+ Philip Boyce, OCD

Bishop of Raphoe



Chairperson's Address.

This Report outlines the work of the Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee for 2015 & 2016.

Over the last two years the Diocese of Raphoe, through the Safeguarding Office, has continued its work in promoting safeguarding in all Church activities involving children, young people and Adults at Risk. I would like to acknowledge the great work of the Committee members in giving their time and expertise to this important work.

In June 2016 Mary Callaghan retired from her role as Chairperson of the Committee but continues to serve. Mary played a very valuable role in raising awareness of safeguarding and supporting the Priests and Parishioners of the Diocese through the challenging early years. She leaves behind a Committee and a cohort of people across the county who are very well informed about the necessity and procedures of safeguarding. I thank Mary most sincerely for her conscientiousness and wisdom.

I wish to thank Bishop Boyce and the Clergy of the Diocese for their ongoing commitment and support of the work of the Committee.

The thirst for information and awareness training is never quenched and, together, we can work towards effective practice for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bríd Carlin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bríd Carlin

Chairperson Child Safeguarding Committee

News and Updates

Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.



The National Board has engaged in a lengthy and comprehensive consultation over an eighteen-month period across the whole Church in Ireland, including governmental agencies, to ensure that the updating and revision of the Church safeguarding standards is consistent with both learned experience and best practice.

This publication underlines a 'one-Church' approach across all constituent Church bodies. The revised set of standards is designed to ensure up-to-date 'best practice' in all aspects of child safeguarding in the creation and maintenance of safe environments.

The **policy** element of document sets out, by way of five commitments, the undertaking of the Catholic Church in Ireland to keep children safe through:

1. Mandatory reporting to statutory authorities of suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that a child is being or has been abused;
2. Caring for the welfare of all children involved in Church activities, and of the adults who work with them;
3. Responding appropriately to child protection suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations, and to the people who bring these to the attention of Church personnel;
4. Caring pastorally for those who have suffered abuse, and other affected persons;
5. Caring pastorally for those implicated in the perpetration of abuse, and other affected persons.

In March 2016 all Church bodies in Ireland adopted the standards set out in Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland. This is the revised and updated document that sets out the one-Church policy and standards for the protection of children and young people within the Catholic Church on the island of Ireland.

Since publication of the 2016 safeguarding document, the National Board has been engaged in providing support and training to Church bodies to assist them to understand and to implement the revised policy and standards. This engagement with Church bodies has proven to be extremely beneficial in becoming familiar at first hand with the challenges that face the Church at local level. The exercise has also enabled the National Board to understand the increasing role that many Church bodies are playing in the lives of children.

The process of examining the revised standards has in turn enabled Church authorities to look afresh at their ministry and to recognise their role in directly and indirectly influencing good child safeguarding practice. At an earlier time, a perspective that sadly gained currency among some Church personnel was that the safest way for them to deal with child safeguarding was to have nothing to do with children. This is not a solution. However, the Church can only have a future if ministry with children flourishes.

The revised policy and standards document restate the requirements for working safely with children and the guidance that accompanies them shows how best this can be done. Following years of criticism and failures to respond appropriately to allegations of abuse, it needs to be acknowledged that the Church's policy, standards and practices are now among the most up-to-date and progressive in Ireland, and reflect a Church that is learning from the past.

While acknowledging real and substantial progress, a note of caution has to be sounded against any over confidence that risks to children and young people no longer exist. As statutory Inquiries into Child Abuse are taking place in Australia, England, Wales and Scotland, as well as the HIA in Northern Ireland which reported recently, we have again been reminded that children were treated like insensate objects by people in positions of authority in the Catholic Church, and that as a consequence of this abuse, many children have suffered long-term irreparable damage. The long-term harm caused by the abuse of children by clergy and religious cannot be resolved quickly.

In recognition of the need to do more to care for complainants, **the new Standard 3 'Caring for and supporting complainants'** was developed to be a core part of the Church's child safeguarding ministry. To assist with the implementation of this standard, National Office staff have delivered training for Support Persons – people who are appointed by Church authorities as part of their commitment to provide a real pastoral response to those who have been abused by clergy and religious. The National Board will develop further guidance on how to implement this standard in 2017.

The second new standard – Standard 4 – relates to the care and management of the respondent. During 2016, National Board staff met with respondents and their representatives, as well as delivering training for Advisors – people who are appointed by Church authorities as part of their commitment to pastorally support respondent clergy and religious. The National Board’s National Case Management Committee (NCMC) was regularly consulted by Church authorities during 2016/2017, and its advice was sought on how to conduct canonical preliminary investigations. The NCMC also provided guidance to Church authorities on how best to put in place safety plans in situations where it was clear that there was a case to be answered in relation to allegations of abuse. Guidance on Standard 4 will also be further developed in 2017.





Garda Vetting – Standard 1 – Safe Recruitment.

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016, which came into effect on 29 April 2016, makes it **mandatory** for people working with children or Adults at Risk to be vetted by the Garda Síochána National Vetting Bureau.

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

- Childcare Services
- Schools
- Hospitals and health services
- Residential services or accommodation for children or vulnerable persons
- Treatment, therapy or counselling services for children or vulnerable persons
- Provision of leisure or physical activities to children or vulnerable persons
- *Promotion of religious beliefs*

All diocesan personnel, paid workers and volunteers who have regular access to children or Adults at Risk in the Diocese of Raphoe must undergo Garda Vetting. Garda Vetting is required to create safer environments for children in accordance with **Standard 1 – Safe Environments**. Garda Vetting is a necessary step in the recruitment of all staff and volunteers working with children.

Who should undergo vetting in your Parish?

- Parish clergy, (Bishops, Priests, Deacons) including priests who provide occasional or temporary ministry in the Parish,
- Parish Safeguarding Representatives,
- Youth Leaders (Choir, Youth Liturgy, John Paul II Award Leaders),
- Sacristans,
- Choir Directors and their assistants, where children are members of the choir,
- Children's Liturgy Leaders,
- Persons responsible for providing training to Altar Servers,
- This is not an exhaustive list and can include anyone else who may have regular contact with children or adults at risk.



Retrospective Vetting

Section 21 of the National Vetting Bureau Act above places a legislative requirement on schools and parishes to conduct vetting in respect of employees who were in employment prior to the 29th April 2016, and who have not been previously subject to a vetting application by that organisation. In that regard, it has been directed by the Minister for Justice & Equality, that vetting must be sought in respect of this category of personnel by **31st December 2017**.



All Garda Vetting is now carried out on-line.

- The first part of the process is to complete an **Invitation Form** which can be downloaded from www.raphoediocese/safeguarding/forms.
- The form should be completed giving a valid email address and a contact number. You must state the **Role Being Vetting For** and indicate the **Name of School / Parish** you are being vetted to work / volunteer in.
- Please note that for schools, only ancillary staff are vetted by the Diocese i.e. SNAs, Caretaker, Secretary, Volunteers, Coaches, etc. The Teaching Council is the authorised body for administering vetting for teachers in Ireland and is required to assess the vetting disclosure for suitability for registration.
- Two **(2) forms of Identification** must be submitted with your Invitation Form (copy of passport/driving license and copy of utility bill or another official document that is proof of address).
- All completed Invitation Forms should now be submitted to :

Margaret Northage, **Liaison Person for Garda Vetting**, Diocesan Pastoral Centre
Monastery Avenue, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
- Check your emails regularly as you will receive an e-mail directly from the Garda Vetting Bureau. This is not spam. Click on the attached link and complete your vetting on-line giving all addresses lived at from birth to present day. Please ensure that for any Northern Ireland addresses you provide the BT postal code otherwise your application will be rejected.
- The outcome of your vetting will be emailed to the relevant school or parish.
- The vetting process takes between 5 – 10 working days. If you have lived abroad or in Northern Ireland this process will take longer.
- Re-vetting is recommended every 5 years.

During 2015 and 2016, John Murphy, Forquar, Milford has continued to act as Designated Signatory and processed all Parish Vetting Applications with Fr. Michael Mc Keever providing vetting for all School Vetting Applications.

In 2006 the Vetting Bureau processed 900 vetting applications. In 2016 over 500,000 people underwent Vetting. The introduction of the Act has seen a huge increase in vetting.

Safeguarding Adults at Risk

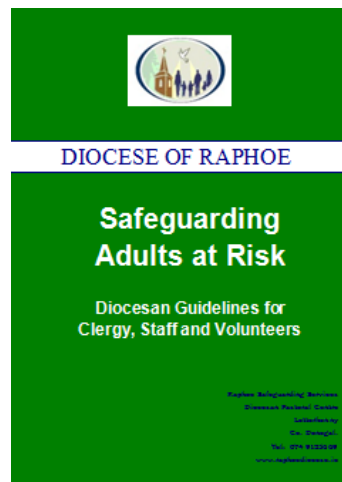
The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016.



The Diocese has developed a Policy & Procedures document giving clear guidelines on Safeguarding Adults at Risk along with information on the Role Description of Eucharistic Minister to the Housebound and Code of Conduct for those who minister to Adults at Risk.

A copy of this document can be downloaded at:

www.raphoediocese/safeguarding/policy or from the Safeguarding Children Office.



Vulnerable Adult Training delivered by Marie Barr, Social Worker, HSE – 8th February 2017.

A total of 20 participants attended the training including Bishop Boyce, Committee Members, Trainers, Carers, LUH Chaplain and Safeguarding Personnel from LYIT.

One of the **key points** noted from this training day was that:

“If you see a change in the usual demeanour of a person, get advice from a second person, don’t investigate as it is not your role, pass it on.”

Training on Adults at Risk will be rolled out by Diocesan Trainers from September 2017 onwards and will be incorporated with Safeguarding Children Training Programme.

TRAINING DELIVERED IN 2015 – STANDARD 5 & STANDARD 6

Date	Description	Lay	Clergy	Total
5 th May	Family Enrichment Centre, Stranorlar. Trainers: Sr. Mary & Margaret Northage	19	1	20
13 th May	Nazareth Nursing Home, Fahan. No Trainers were available in the Derry Diocese at this time. The National Board requested that the Raphoe Trainers deliver training. Trainers: Sr. Mary & Margaret Northage	14	1	15
16 th Sept	Nazareth Nursing Home, Fahan. Trainers: Sr. Mary & Margaret Northage	13	0	13
24 th Sept	Nazareth Nursing Home, Fahan. Trainers: Sr. Mary & Margaret Northage	12	2	14
28 th Nov	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny. Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	8	0	8

The number of training sessions was reduced in 2015 as we awaited the publication of the Revised Policy, Standards & Guidance Document and updated training material to accompany the new guidance.

All 4 Trainers attended an update on the new material in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth 19th September 2015.

The new training was launched in April 2016 and rolled out in all 6 deanery areas.

TRAINING DELIVERED IN 2016 – STANDARD 5 AND STANDARD 6				
Date	Group	Lay	Clergy	Total
4 th April	Lourdes Pilgrimage Leaders Trainers: Sr. Mary, John Kennedy & Margaret Northage	12	0	12
5 th May	Updated Training Session Fr. Ciaran Harkin Newtowncunningham & Stranorlar Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	3	17	20
10 th May	Presentation: New training & Garda Vetting Legislation Bishop Boyce, Church of the Irish Martyrs Trainers: Margaret Northage	0	24	24
11 th May	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Fr. Adrian Gavigan Milford, Rathmullan, Dunfanaghy, Carrigart & Termon Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	14	3	17
17 th May	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Fr. Cathal O’Fearrai Ballyshannon, Clar, Inver, Killymard Trainers: Sr. Mary & John Kennedy	22	8	30
26 th May	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Diocesan Pastoral Centre Stranorlar, Glenfin & Net Ministries Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	10	2	12

6 th June	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Fr. Austin Lavery Ardara, Glenties, Bruckless, Fintown, Killymard, Kilcar, Rathmullan Trainers: Sr. Mary & John Kennedy	21	7	28
9 th June	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Diocesan Pastoral Centre Youth Ministry Trainer: Margaret Northage	2	0	2
30 th June	Updated Training & Garda Vetting St. Eunan's Cathedral Children's Summer Camp Trainer: Margaret Northage	9	0	9
5 th July	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Diocesan Pastoral Centre Visiting Clergy along with Parish Priest & Parishioner Trainer: Margaret Northage	1	4	5
7 th July	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Diocesan Pastoral Centre Staff Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	8	0	8
6 th Sept	Updated Training & Garda Vetting C/o Fr. Pat Ward Visiting Clergy + 2 Parish Reps Trainer: Margaret Northage	2	1	3
27 th Sept	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Fr. Denis Quinn Gortahork, Falcarragh, Annagry, Dungloe, Ballybofey, Polish Prayer Group. Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	16	4	20

4 th Oct	Updated Training & Garda Vetting Children's Liturgy Group Church of the Irish Martyrs Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	23	0	23
29 th Oct	Trainers Re-assessment Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay Arranmore Island Tutor, Sandra Neville, NBSCCCI.	13	1	14
12 th Nov	Trainers Re-assessment Sr. Mary & John Kennedy Mc Gettigan's Hotel, Letterkenny Tutor, Sandra Neville, NBSCCCI.	17	3	20
8 th Dec	Ards Retreat Centre – Staff Trainers: Margaret Northage & Br. Kieran Shorten	11	1	12
	TOTALS	184	75	259

Parish Self Audits 2015

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.

In 2015, 36 Parish Audits were returned to the Safeguarding Office. All returned audits reported good compliance with all Seven Standards and no concerns had been reported.

Parish Self-Audits 2016.

The 2016 Audits were sent to parishes at the beginning of the year with a closing date of Wednesday 1st March 2017. To date 35 audits have been returned.

When all audits are returned the Safeguarding Committee will collate the information into a report which will be recorded in the Annual Report of 2017 and a copy will also be sent to the National Board. If you have not already returned your 2016 Audit please do so as soon as possible.

We wish to thank you all, our clergy and parish representative for their help and cooperation in doing so. If you require any assistance or clarification in completing your Parish Audit, please contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny on 074 91 25669.

Outcome of Parish Self-Audits.

Having examined all 36 audits, the following areas required further information or follow up:

Further Information Requested :-	No. of Requests	You will find this information : -
Guidance on Photography & Internet	4	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014, Pg 48 Appendix 4</i>
Guidance on Hiring Church Property	4	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms : Form 17
Request for Updated Training	4	Safeguarding Children Office
Policy Statement	3	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms : Information Leaflets & Posters, No 1 Policy
Policy Agreement Form	3	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014, Pg 83</i>
Recruitment Pack	2	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014</i> Pg 71, 73, 75, 79, 80 and 83
Guidance on Signing-In Book	1	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms : Altar Server Poster
Storage of Documentation	1	www.safeguarding.ie Standards – Appendices and Glossary, Appendix B
Updated Garda Vetting Forms	1	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms : Form 10
Posters & Leaflets	1	www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms : Information Leaflets & Posters.
Code of Behaviour for Adults	1	<i>Policy & Procedures Booklet 2014, Form 17 Pg 63</i>

All the above items can be downloaded from the Diocesan website:

www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding or the National Board's website www.safeguarding.ie.

How to use the Diocesan website – www.raphoediocese.ie.

HOME PAGE:



CLICK ON THE SAFEGUARDING TAB TO ACCESS POLICY/FORMS/LEAFLETS.

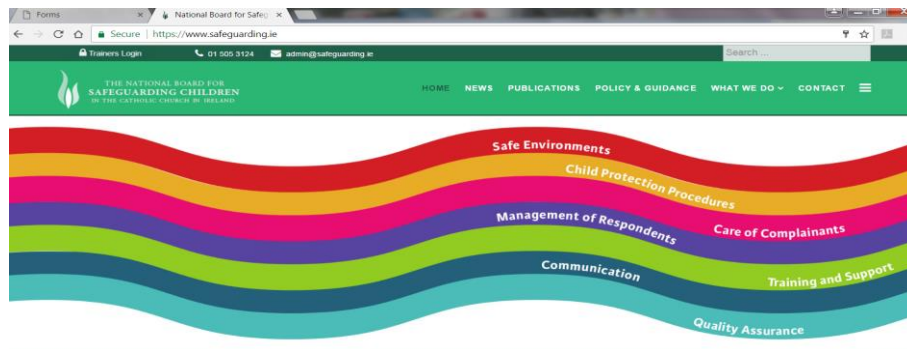


LIST OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

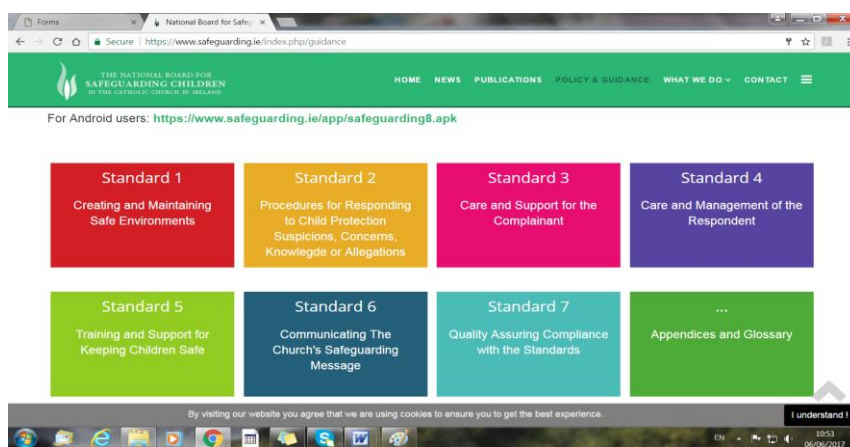


How to use the National Board's website – www.safeguarding.ie

HOME PAGE:

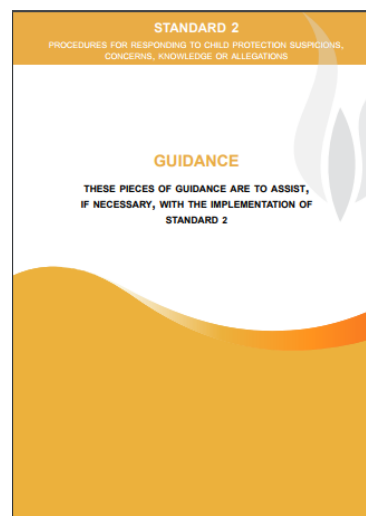
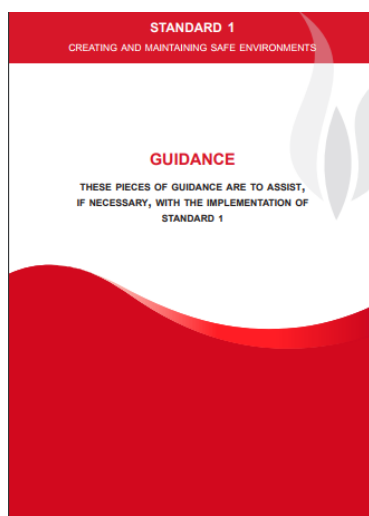


SCROLL DOWN THE SCREEN TO THE STANDARDS:



As you scroll over each standard you will see the guidance notes and all the template forms associated with that standard. Click on the item of information you request and it will be downloaded to your PC.

Examples below of Standard 1 and Standard 2 – Guidance Documents.



<p>Safeguarding Committee: Bríd Carlin, Chairperson John Murphy, Vice Chair Margaret Northage, Secretary Mary Callaghan John Kennedy Barry Ramsay Sr. Mary O'Donovan Fr. Gerard Cunningham Cathal Quinn Ciaran Maguire</p>	<p>Childline 1800 666666 www.childline.ie Provides a 24 hour listening service for children.</p> <p>Towards Healing 1800303416 www.towardshealing.ie Provides telephone counselling and psychotherapy referral service for people who have been abused by priests or religious.</p> <p>Towards Peace www.towardspeace.ie. Offers spiritual support and guidance to survivors of abuse by Church personnel.</p>
<p>Training Co-ordinator & Garda Vetting Liaison Person Margaret Northage</p>	<p>National Counselling Service (NCS) 1800 235234 This service is for adults who were abused in childhood and offers confidential face to face counselling.</p>
<p>Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers: Mary O'Donovan John Kennedy Margaret Northage Barry Ramsay</p>	<p>Connect 1800 235235 www.connectcounselling.ie This is a free telephone counselling service for any adult who has experienced abuse, trauma or neglect in childhood.</p>
<p>Diocesan Designated Officers: Kathleen Gallagher, 086 218 3011 Paddy Mc Daid, 086 218 3022</p>	<p>Samaritans 1850609090 www.samaritans.org</p>
<p>Diocesan Support Persons: Moya Campbell, 074 9735309 Jim Mc Glynn, 086 722 5153</p>	<p>www.childprotection.ie this is the website of the Child Protection Unit in the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI).</p>
<p>Agencies offering advice and support:</p> <p>National Board for Safeguarding Children</p> <p>New House, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co.Kildare.Phone no: 01 505 3124 Fax: 01 505 3026 Website: www.safeguarding.ie</p>	<p>ISPCC – www.ispcc.ie</p> <p>Barnardos – www.barnardos.ie</p> <p>Rape Crisis Network of Ireland – www.rcni.ie</p> <p>One in Four – www.oneinfour.ie</p>
<p>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.</p>	

OBJECTIVES FOR 2017.

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 2017.

1.	To continue to provide advice and support to parishes on Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults at Risk .
2.	To develop a three year Child Safeguarding Plan to ensure compliance with the National Board's requirements on keeping children safe.
3.	To carry out a Training Needs Assessment on the diocese which will assist with the development of the three year Safeguarding Plan.
4.	To continue best practice in safeguarding children through delivering Safeguarding Children Training and Adults at Risk 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 develop a Constitution of the Safeguarding Committee.
7.	To continue to promote the Church's Safeguarding message by circulating quarterly bulletins on Safeguarding to parishes for inclusion in their parish newsletter.
8.	To ensure that the diocesan website is kept up to date.
9.	To develop training around Adults at Risk which will be incorporated with Safeguarding Children Training.
10.	To attend meetings and training organised by the National Board for Safeguarding Training.
11.	To attend bi-annual meetings of the Armagh Trainers Metropolitan Group.
12.	To distribute the end-of-year <i>Parish Self Audit Document</i> of the National Board (NBSCCI) to all parishes of the diocese in December 2017. 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 continue to provide Garda e-Vetting to parishes and schools under the patronage of the Diocese of Raphoe.
14.	To produce an Annual Report for 2017



Safeguarding Children Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Monastery Avenue,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

Tel: 074 91 25669 E-mail: cporaphoediocese@eircom.net

Web: www.raphoediocese/safeguarding.