



St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow



Safeguarding Newsletter, District of Ireland

Issue 2: June 2016

Welcome. This time of year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the safeguarding work of last year. We will also look forward with fresh hope at what we can collectively achieve in the interests of safeguarding during 2016-2017.

NBSCCCI

In February this year the National Board for Safeguarding Children in Ireland (NBSCCCI) published *Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2016*.

As stated in the Introduction by Mr. John Morgan (Chairman): *"The policy and standards provide the framework for practice, through a one-Church approach to child safeguarding. The purpose is to ensure that the same principles, procedures and practices for safeguarding children and for responding to allegations or suspicions of child abuse operate at every level and in every place throughout the Catholic Church in Ireland. These standards represent the expected level of performance all parts of the Church should reach."*

By dedicating ourselves to learn, to improve on our practice and to meet these new standards we will remain vigilant in protecting the children of today and tomorrow, and protect Church personnel and the integrity of the Church and its mission."



Guidance

To support the implementation of the Standards, the NBSCCCI has produced guidance. It is not mandatory to follow the Board's guidance, but each Church authority must be satisfied that they have in place effective guidance to realise the relevant indicators in the new standards.



Work of the Safeguarding Committee

Since our first newsletter last year the committee members have developed various interim guidance documents and place them on the Society website www.spms.org. This guidance will be reviewed together with the existing procedures in the coming months to ensure all standards as outlined by the NBSCCCI are met. In January the committee published its annual report. This report was forwarded to CLT and to the NBSCCCI and may be viewed on our website.



Committee members:

Sandra Neville, Laura Murphy, Tom O'Connor, Tom Kiggins, and David Walsh.

Data Protection Policy:

A data protection policy and code of practice is presently being developed and it is hoped that this policy will be signed off by the District Leadership and Safeguarding Committee in September. The policy will be distributed in the autumn.



Vetting Act:

On April 29th the Department of Justice and Equality enacted The National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 to 2016. From this date it will be a criminal offence for a Church body to engage anyone in “relevant work” (Section 12 of the Act), without receiving a vetting disclosure from the Garda Vetting Bureau. This means that the person must be vetted before he or she starts work.



Over the coming months the necessary forms will be provided to the personnel who are required to be vetted under this Act.

Safeguarding Workshop in July

All members, resident and visiting, and staff are cordially invited to our safeguarding workshop on the morning of Monday 11th July.

This is open to **all members and staff**.

We hope during this session to introduce the new policy document, give updates on the revised guidance and standards that have been developed in the past year.



Child Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Constituent
Members of the Catholic Church In Ireland

St. Patrick's Missionary Society

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children, are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:

Sandra Neville

Designated Liaison Person



087 9844779



neville.sandra@gmail.com

Or you can report your concern directly to:

TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) – Tel: 076 695 5400

An Garda Síochána – Tel: 01 666 3445

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