



Missionary Society of St. Columban

Dalgan Park, Navan, Co Meath



Safeguarding Newsletter, Region of Ireland

Issue 2: July 2017

Welcome!

This time of year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the safeguarding work of last year. We also look forward with fresh hope at what we can collectively achieve in the interests of safeguarding during 2017-2018. This newsletter is a tool to inform you, assist you in reflecting and to update you on changes in the Safeguarding work here in the Region of Ireland.

Work of the Safeguarding Committee

Since our first newsletter last year the committee membership has changed. We are very grateful for the input from Fr Mike Dodd during his time with the committee and wish him well for the future. We are happy to welcome to the team Fr Pdraig O'Donovan who has kindly accepted to replace Fr Mike.



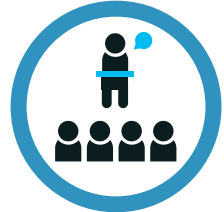
Over the past year much of the committee work consisted in revising the Safeguarding Policy & Procedures in line with the National Board for Safeguarding Children's guidance. In the coming weeks this revised document will be accessible on the updated Columbian website. In the autumn time we plan to provide members and staff with a summary copy.



Safeguarding Update Sessions

We propose to facilitate safeguarding sessions in the autumn time where all recent updates will be provided. Also we will have an opportunity to disseminate the revised policy and procedures document.

We are also planning to hold a workshop on the two new standards (Standard 3 Care and Support of the Complainant and Standard 4 Care and Management of the Respondent) that were introduced in the recent revision of the National Policy.



Posters will be displayed advertising the dates for the above sessions/workshop.

Garda Vetting

All members are required to complete the Garda Vetting process, if you have not availed of this please contact Sandra Neville (Garda Vetting Liaison Person).

If you are unsure whether or not you have been vetted you may check with Sandra.



**DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE AND EQUALITY**



Celebret Card

The celebret card will be issued to you by Fr Pat Raleigh, Regional Director.

NBSCCCI News (www.safeguarding.ie)

NBSCCCI Guidance on Ensuring All Clerics/ Religious, who are Members of the Church Body and are Ministering with Children in an External Organisation/ Church Body, Agree to Follow Effective Safeguarding Practice.



It is important that where clerics/religious are ministering with children in an external organisation or Church body, the Church authority must have agreement from the external organisation or Church body that effective safeguarding policies and procedures are in place. To do this, the Church authority should have written agreements in place for every cleric/religious who is ministering with children in an external organisation or Church body. This agreement should include:

- That the organisation for whom the member is ministering has safeguarding policies and procedures in place;
- That the member ministering in this external organisation understands that while they are working for that organisation, the safeguarding policies and procedures must be adhered to.

As part of this guidance we have introduced the Priest's Agreement, every member will be given a copy to sign and a copy to retain. This document will be shared with all during the various workshops. If anyone wishes to receive a copy prior to this that can contact Sandra Neville (Neville.sandra@gmail.com or 087 9844779).

Missionary Society of St. Columban

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**Agreement to abide by the
Region Ireland**

**Safeguarding Policy & Procedures
when working with children and young people.**

Pope Francis, on the December 2016 Feast of the Holy Innocents, wrote a letter to the world's bishops. He addressed why he considered it a priority to protect children, whose innocence is often violated by exploitation, clandestine and slave labour, prostitution or the abuse by adults, criminals and dealers in death.



He also particularly cited the sins of some Church members, the sufferings, experiences and pain of young people who were abused sexually by priests, a sin that shames us. Here are some of his words on these specific sins:

“We join in the pain of the victims and weep for this sin. The sin of what happened, the sin of the failing to help, the sin of covering up and denial, the sin of the abuse of power ... I would like us to renew our complete commitment to ensuring that these atrocities will no longer take place in our midst.

Let us find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated.”



If you have a safeguarding concern please contact:

Sandra Neville

Designated Liaison Person

Mobile: 087 9844779

Email: neville.sandra@gmail.com

Or you can report your concern directly to:

An Garda Síochána Helpline Tel: 1800 555 222
and TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) Tel: 076 695 5400