



St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow



Safeguarding Newsletter, District of Ireland

Issue 3: June 2017

Welcome, to our annual safeguarding newsletter. 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 District of Ireland.

Work of the Safeguarding Committee

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. This revised document is accessible on www.spms.org. In the autumn time we plan to provide members/staff with a summary copy.

The National Safeguarding Committee; promoting the rights of adults who may be vulnerable (**NOT** the National Board for Safeguarding Children) was established in 2014 and will lead on encouraging an organisational and societal culture which promotes the rights of adults who may be vulnerable and it insists on zero tolerance for abuse. It will provide strategic guidance to the Government, the HSE, and other national stakeholders.

National
Safeguarding
Committee

Promoting the rights of adults
who may be vulnerable.



Accessible on the www.spms.org website in the Safeguarding section are the following documents:

- Interim Guidance on the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Persons
- Annual Safeguarding Report 2016
- Safeguarding Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Safeguarding Update Sessions

Sandra has been facilitating update sessions for members and staff since April. Attendance at these update sessions will ensure compliance with Standard 5; Training and Support.



The update sessions will continue in the coming months to accommodate all members and staff, posters will be displayed advertising the dates and time for these sessions.

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 Tomás O'Connor (District Leader), this lasts for one year (expiry date May 1st, 2018).

A blue and white card for St. Patrick's Missionary Society. It features a gold cross and a globe with the text 'Christ's Love Compels Us' around it. Contact information is provided below.

**St. Patrick's
Missionary
Society**

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NBSCCCI News (www.safeguarding.ie)

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.



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 they can contact Sandra Neville (Neville.sandra@gmail.com or 087 9844779).



St. Patrick's Missionary Society
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**Agreement to abide by the
District of 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 of 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