

Archdiocese of Dublin



SAFEGUARDING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBLIN

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 TO 2016

This document has been prepared to comply with the requirements of Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland (2008)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to set the direction for all safeguarding work carried out by diocesan offices, agencies and parishes to the end of 2016. The desired outcomes are to be achieved at various levels: diocesan, parish and individual.

1. At diocesan level the involvement of children in the life of the diocese is understood as central to its mission and there is acceptance of the challenges and disciplines that must be embraced to make this a reality.
2. At parish level there is a commitment to implement diocesan safeguarding policy and practices.
3. At individual level there is acceptance that good safeguarding practice is a key element of ministry in the Church.

Safeguarding is understood as all of the measures we take to ensure that children are safe and are protected from all forms of abuse. It is accepted that during the period when this plan is in operation the application of safeguarding measures is likely to be extended to vulnerable adults.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this period:

- Every person working in a parish will have been Garda vetted
- Every priest of the Diocese will have participated in a one day safeguarding training programme
- Every safeguarding representative will have participated in a one day safeguarding training programme
- Every person carrying out a parish ministry that involves children (sacristans, those organising altar servers, those running children's choirs etc) will have participated in a one day safeguarding training programme
- Information sessions on safeguarding will have been provided for all others involved in parish activities and for those parents whose children are involved or wish to be involved
- An annual Diocesan Child Safeguarding Day will highlight the commitment of the diocese to promoting the involvement of children in all aspects of the life of the Church by ensuring that they can do so safely (commenced 2013)
- A climate survey will have been conducted to canvas the views and perspectives of various groups, such as, priests, safeguarding representatives, trainers, parents and children
- Means will be explored of promoting the participation of children and parents in safeguarding activities at diocesan and parish level
- Every parish will have undertaken to ensure that all parishioners are aware of diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures
- Regional structures will have been put in place to promote the sharing of good practice across parishes
- Under the direction of the Safeguarding Committee, practice in relation to such areas as use of forms, keeping of records, use by non parish groups of parish property for activities with children etc will have been standardised
- Every parish will be conducting an annual self audit of compliance with diocesan safeguarding policy and the results of these audits will be shared

with the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS)

- The diocesan safeguarding policy: *Archdiocese of Dublin – Child Safeguarding and Protection, Policy and Procedures* will have been revised and updated to take account of changes in legislation, national and church safeguarding policy and the outcome of the review of safeguarding practice undertaken by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland ('the National Office') in 2014.

STRUCTURES

1. The Safeguarding Committee will advise the Archbishop on the strategic direction of safeguarding practice in the Diocese. It will do this through the development of this strategic plan and by advising on its implementation.
2. The Diocesan Safeguarding Strategy will be informed by the principles enshrined in *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland* and take account of direction, policy and guidance emanating from the National Office.
3. The Child Safeguarding and Protection Service will direct and support the implementation of diocesan safeguarding policy in parishes and diocesan agencies.
4. The diocesan training officers, under the general direction of the Training and Development Officer will deliver training to priests, safeguarding representatives and other parish personnel as required and will provide advice and assistance in the implementation of diocesan safeguarding policies and practices.
5. Child Safeguarding Representatives, of whom there will be at least two in each parish, will ensure that the parish in which they serve is compliant with diocesan safeguarding policies and practices and will be available to provide information and advice on safeguarding matters to children involved in church activities in the parish and to their parents.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY

As set out in: *Archdiocese of Dublin – Child Safeguarding and Protection, Policy and Procedures*, all diocesan personnel are committed to the implementation of diocesan safeguarding policies and practices and will, therefore, cooperate with the implementation of this strategy.

The CSPS will have primary responsibility for implementing the diocesan safeguarding strategic plan.

The CSPS will work under the general direction of the Archbishop whose direction will be informed by the advice of the Safeguarding Committee.

The CSPS will assume responsibility for the administration of the Diocesan Garda Vetting Service [Completed in 2013].

The CSPS will be assisted by the diocesan trainers and the parish safeguarding representatives in the implementation of this plan.

RESOURCES

The achievement of all of the objectives of this strategy depends on the availability of sufficient resources for its implementation and the appropriate and efficient use of those resources. These resources were enhanced during 2013 with the training and accreditation of two additional diocesan trainers.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The CSPA will report to the Archbishop and to the Safeguarding Committee on progress in implementing this strategy. The Safeguarding Committee will advise the Archbishop on any changes needed and on the adequacy of the resources available for the implementation of the strategy.