



NEWSLETTER

STAFF CHANGES

Fr Paddy Boyle, whose role and contribution were described in the April edition of the Newsletter, was appointed Parish Priest of Ayrfield in September 2015. He has stepped down from his role as Training Coordinator with CSPS. His responsibilities have been assumed by Garry Kehoe.

For many people in the Archdiocese of Dublin, Fr Paddy Boyle was synonymous with safeguarding training. Not alone did many people attend training sessions given by Fr Paddy, most of the current diocesan trainers *"learned their trade"* from him.

Fr Paddy was admired for his easy, engaging manner and the way in which he located safeguarding practice within the Church's mission.

Happily we are not losing Fr Paddy completely. Fr Paddy will continue to do some training and will also continue in his role as a tutor of other trainers for the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.



COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We often get asked questions about communicating with children and young people by mobile phone, text and social media. A good general principle is that when we are communicating with minors, that is, those under 18 years, we communicate with their parents.

There are no circumstances in which it is permissible for

someone who is organising an activity on behalf of a parish or diocesan agency to contact or make arrangements with children without their parent's knowledge and consent.

There are circumstances in which it is permissible to send emails and text messages to 16 and 17 year olds, provided that their parents are

copied into these messages. These messages should contain only general, non-personal information, for example, the date and time of the next rehearsal of the youth choir.

Detailed guidance on these matters is available on our website: www.cspss.dublindiocese.ie under 'Policy Documents'.

DIOCESAN POLICY DOCUMENT

The Archdiocese of Dublin: Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures was published in 2011. At that time a commitment was made to review it in three years. Though the document has been enhanced with additional guidance, all of which is available on our website, the document itself has not been revised and updated. The reason for this is that the document was prepared to comply

with the requirements of Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland. The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) announced in 2014 that it intended to revise Safeguarding Children. That process is now well under way and should be completed by the end of 2015. *cont* ►

It did not make sense to revise our diocesan policy document until the revision of the standards with which it must comply is completed.

The new version of Safeguarding Children will have the same structure as the old one. It will contain seven standards, with which every Church body will have to comply, and it will have guidance material which will be advisory rather than mandatory. There will be one change that will have implications for any new version of the diocesan policy document. Standard One of the current version of Safeguarding Children requires each Church body to have a child protection policy. The new Standard One will be a statement of policy that will be adopted by each Church body as their own. Therefore, there will, strictly speaking, be no need for a separate diocesan policy document.

The Archdiocese of Dublin: Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures contains more than the statement of diocesan policy. It also indicates how the seven safeguarding

standards are to be understood and implemented in our parishes and diocesan agencies. It contains appendices with guidance on such matters as dealing with disclosures of child sexual abuse. This guidance, as stated above, has been supplemented with additional guidance on a range of issues in the four years since the publication of the diocesan policy document in 2011.

The printed version of the diocesan policy document is a 40 page, A5 size booklet, just small enough to fit into a jacket pocket or a handbag and people have valued its modest size and portability. Requests continue to be made for copies of it but we have not been able to meet these since supplies of hard copies ran out some time ago and no new ones were printed, since a revision was planned.

When the new version on Safeguarding Children is published a decision will be made about a new version of the diocesan policy document.

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

We use the term 'survivors' for those who were abused as children by priests and religious. It is the term preferred by those organisations that advocate on their behalf. There are good reasons to use 'survivor' instead of 'victim'. The role of victim is often seen as a passive one and, of course, survivors have played a very active role in the Church and in civil society in addressing the issue of the abuse of children by priests and religious. As Catholics and as citizens we are enormously indebted to those courageous survivors who have often had to force us to face up to truths we wished to avoid or minimise.

Nonetheless, it is important that we remember when we are dealing with the families of those who were abused as children that not all of them have survived. Some found it just too hard to live with the damage done to them by their abusers and ended their own lives.

November is the month of the Holy Souls and it is appropriate that we remember those who died in such sad circumstances and pray that they are at peace now.



TRAINING SCHEDULE, NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2015

Please contact the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service Office (**tel. 01-836014 or email: cps@dublindiocese.ie**) for further information or to reserve a place on one of these courses.

NOVEMBER		
Date	Venue	Time
Saturday, 7th	Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road	09:30 – 15:30
Saturday, 14th	Aughrim Street	09:30 – 15:30
Saturday, 28th	Arklow	09:30 – 15:30

DECEMBER		
Date	Venue	Time
Saturday, 5th	Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road	09:30 – 15:30

Apart from the training sessions listed above, which are open to everyone, the diocesan trainers have been providing training on request from parishes and others and this training is provided at locations that suit the groups involved. We are happy to continue to accommodate such requests as best we can.

There is a value in people coming to open training events rather than, for example, training with other people from their parish. One of the key learning points for the trainers has been the value of people working together in small groups and this is now a key part of the training we deliver. We try to ensure that trainees work in small groups with people they have not previously known. This provides an opportunity for the trainees to learn from each other and for good practice to spread from one parish or group to others.

This autumn, in particular, the diocesan trainers have struggled to meet all the requests we have received for training. For this reason, too, we would ask people to consider attending the open training sessions.

Garry Kehoe is available to you to discuss your training needs and those of your parish or group. He is contactable at **01-8360314** or **garrykehoe@dublindiocese.ie**

CONTACT DETAILS

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