

Diocesan Safeguarding Strategic Plan 2017 to 2019

The diocesan Safeguarding Committee was established in 2013 to advise Archbishop Martin on the implementation of diocesan safeguarding policies and practices. The Committee is made up of priests, religious and lay people from parishes and diocesan agencies. It is chaired by Aidan Browne of Crosscare.

Earlier this year the Committee devised, and Archbishop Martin approved, a three year plan for the implementation of diocesan safeguarding policy across the Diocese’s 199 parishes and its various diocesan agencies. The three year plan runs from the beginning of 2017 to the end of 2019.

This is the second such plan devised by the Committee, the first having expired at the end of 2016. A significant development is that the remit of the committee has been extended to include safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

The plan is broken down into ten strategic objectives which are set out below, along with their proposed completion dates.

1. An updated version of *Archdiocese of Dublin: Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy and Procedures* will be published in 2017 to take account of changes to legislation and Church guidelines.
2. By the end of 2018 each parish will have an up to date register of those working for the parish containing a record of their vetting and training.
3. From 2018 all those engaged in public ministry in the diocese will undergo vetting every three years.
4. Taking the beginning of 2015 as the baseline, every priest, deacon, parish sister, safeguarding representative and those working with children and vulnerable adults will have completed one day safeguarding training by the end of 2019.
5. From 2017 information sessions will be provided in parishes as required.
6. By the end of 2019 the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS) will have canvassed the views of a representative sample of young people and their parents on diocesan safeguarding activity in order to encourage and promote greater participation in such safeguarding activity.
7. Beginning in 2018 regional meetings of parish safeguarding representatives will be convened to discuss safeguarding issues, to encourage sharing of good practice across parishes and to promote cooperation between them.
8. Beginning in 2018, each parish will audit its own safeguarding practice and report to CSPS in March of each year.
9. In relation to vulnerable adults CSPS will:
	1. Publish a safeguarding policy in 2017;
	2. Produce practice guidelines during 2017;
	3. Design and deliver training, commencing in 2018.
10. In 2018 CSPS will produce safeguarding handbooks for both priests and safeguarding representatives to assist them to understand and discharge their responsibilities for safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

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Andrew Fagan

August 2017