

Diocesan Safeguarding Strategic Plan: June 2020 to June 2023

Introduction

This is the third diocesan safeguarding strategic plan. Each plan has been for a period of three years. The last plan expired in December 2019 and, by that time, work on preparing this plan was well advanced and had been discussed by the diocesan Safeguarding Committee at its meeting in December 2019. Work on implementing many of the strategic objectives was already underway in the early months of 2020. However, with the restrictions on work and movement imposed by the government to control the spread of the corona virus, much of this work had to be put on hold. For example, all training had to be postponed indefinitely in March. In addition, it is likely that there will be changes in the composition of the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service which will impact on its capacity to deliver on some of the objectives identified in this plan. For this reason, the diocesan safeguarding strategic plan 2020 to 2023 will be kept under review by the diocesan Safeguarding Committee and will be updated and amended as required.

This plan, unlike previous plans, divides the strategic objectives into compliance objectives and outcome objectives. The first set of objectives are those things we are required to do in order to comply with legislation or Church or national guidelines. The outcome objectives have more to do with our vision of the future. This is really about changing the way we think about safeguarding. We want our diocesan and parish workers (cleric and lay) to move from thinking about safeguarding as something we have to do to something we want to do because we see it as an integral part of ministry.

Strategic Objectives A: compliance with regulatory requirements	Reference	Timescale
1. CSPA will update the diocesan Child Safeguarding Statement, as required under the Children First Act 2015. Note: it was updated in June 2020 and requires to be updated every two years.	Children First Act 2015	June 2022
2. CSPA will compile a list of mandated persons working on behalf of the diocese, as required under the Children First Act, and ensure that all mandated person understand their responsibilities under the Act.	Children First Act 2015	June 2021
3. CSPA will work with parishes and diocesan offices to ensure that they understand their obligations under the vetting legislation and, in particular, the requirement to re-vet every three years, once the relevant section of the legislation is enacted.	National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012	June 2021
4. CSPA will prepare a privacy statement and post it on the website.	General Data Protection Regulation, 2018	August 2020
5. CSPA will plan for the recommencement of safeguarding training in a manner that complies with government guidelines relating to minimising the spread of the corona virus.	<i>Safeguarding Children</i> , Standard 5	Planning to commence in September 2020
6. CSPA will convene regional meetings of Parish Safeguarding Representatives to discuss safeguarding issues, encourage sharing of good practice and promote cooperation	<i>Safeguarding Children</i> , Standard 1	June 2021
7. CSPA will encourage parishes to maintain an up to date volunteer register with details of vetting and training.	<i>Safeguarding Children</i> , Standard 1	End of 2021
8. CSPA will produce child friendly safeguarding materials.	<i>Safeguarding Children</i> , Standards 1 and 6	End of 2021
9. CSPA will conduct an analysis/audit of training requirements to identify specific groups that may have slipped through the net.	<i>Safeguarding Children</i> , Standard 5	End of 2021
10. CSPA will canvass the views of the international chaplains on the need/ desirability of producing safeguarding materials in languages other than English.	<i>Safeguarding Children</i> , Standard 6	June 2021

Strategic Objectives B: promoting positive experiences for children and vulnerable adults	Reference:	Timescale
11. CSPS will promote a positive image of safeguarding as integral to good pastoral practice, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and upgrade the current CSPS website • Use of Newsletter to showcase best practice • Seminars • Conference 	<i>Safeguarding Children, Standard 6</i>	Commencing 2021
12. CSPS will canvass the views of a representative sample of young people and their parents on diocesan safeguarding activity and this will be done through engaging with the Parish Pastoral Workers.	<i>Safeguarding Children, Standard 6</i>	End of 2021
13. CSPS will develop materials, in cooperation with other Church bodies, for use with children in parishes promoting online safety	<i>Safeguarding Children, Standard 1</i>	End of 2022
14. CSPS will develop, in cooperation with other Church bodies, materials for use in parishes designed to promote inclusion and combat all forms of bullying	<i>Safeguarding Children, Standard 1</i>	End of 2022
15. In relation to vulnerable adults CSPS will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and deliver training on vulnerable adult safeguarding • Produce practice guidelines aimed at people working on their own (e.g. Eucharist Ministers visiting sick people/house visits etc.) and on care of those with disabilities (e.g. Lourdes) • Produce a Safeguarding Handbook for parish staff and volunteers 		Commencing 2020