

Parish Safeguarding Committee – Report delivered to the parish November 2016

One of the functions of the parish safeguarding committee is to update the parish on an annual basis on its purpose and to remind the parish of the role we all play in keeping children and vulnerable adults safe.

The purpose of the parish safeguarding committee;

- To ensure adherence to policies that have been developed which underpins best practice, in line with statutory bodies, and the National Board for Safeguarding Children.
- To implement the policies & procedures of the Down & Connor Diocese regarding safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- To support the diocesan safeguarding office audit on standards, policy and procedure.
- To conduct parish self-audit yearly in line with diocesan standards.
- To ensure volunteers are vetted & trained to diocesan standards.

What happened in 2016.

- The number of volunteers vetted increased to almost 350. This increase was mainly due to the successful implementation and development of the parish youth group who facilitate up to 70 young people on a weekly basis.
- The hire of the parish facilities has been reviewed by the diocesan safeguarding office and directions issued to the parish with regard to the provision of insurance. This means that all persons/groups who wish to hire parish facilities must make application to the parish through the parish office and will be required to provide independent insurance if the event is a non-parish event.
- The parish was selected for a detailed audit by the diocesan office. This audit reviewed our adherence to policy and standards including data protection. It looked at how we manage and support volunteers; how we support group leaders and reviewed the code of conduct each group adhere to. It reviewed how we vet, train and support both resident and visiting clergy and how the parish completes its annual self-audit. It also reviewed how and who used parish premises and the insurance provision for use.

Reminder to all

- If you have concerns about a child there are details of who to contact in the main church porch and in all parish buildings.
- Safeguarding is everyone's business.

Collette Fitzgerald (Chairperson) Parish safeguarding committee

Members of parish safeguarding committee; Father Boyle, Collette Fitzgerald, Jayne McClenaghan, Mary Gately, Mary O'Boyle, Angela McNickle, Kevin McAuley & Julian Mc Gale.