

Newsletter

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Safeguarding Trust Worker's extract - A New Resource

The fourth edition of Safeguarding Trust: the Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children was published in April 2008. A new format of parts and sections makes the Code more accessible and facilitates future additions and the incorporation of additional material. There was no separate handbook for workers.



Parts 5-8, those particularly relevant to workers, can be photocopied and given to workers at training or as part of their local induction.

SGT requires workers to sign a Declaration of acceptance of Safeguarding Trust and a "Duty of Care" (9.2.5).

There were some enquiries at the time about the possibility of producing a booklet for workers. Some time was allowed to elapse after the distribution of the new edition in order to assess demand.

In September 2009 it was decided that there would be sufficient demand for a Worker's extract and two thousand booklets were ordered.

The booklets are exact extracts from the 2008 edition and have the same layout and colour coding.

The extract contains Parts 5-8 of Safeguarding Trust and a standard form for reporting child protection and/or welfare concerns.

Various references are made in the extract to Part 9 – Forms and Resources. A contents list for Part 9 is included to indicate the range of resources available.

This new resource is inexpensive and will relieve parishes of the tedious task of mass photocopying for new and existing workers. If a loose leaf option is preferred, the

staples may be removed, the handbook cut in half and punched ready for insertion in a ring binder.

The booklet costs €4.00 and is available from the Sunday School Society Resource Centre, Holy Trinity Church, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Tel. no. 01-4972821.

Email: sssresourcecentre@eircom.net

Website: www.sundayschoolsociety.ie

The resource centre is open Monday to Thursday 10.00am-4.00pm through lunch.

Additional copies of the full edition of Safeguarding Trust are also available from the Resource Centre and are priced at €15.00.

Leaders' summary cards have been reprinted and they are available free of charge from Church House.

Safeguarding Trust Events & Training

Diocesan Support Team Meeting

A meeting was held on Thursday 24th September 2009 at Church House Dublin.

13 people representing 7 dioceses attended. It was recognised that some people were unable to attend on a week day due to work commitments. However the week day suited the commitments of others. No day will suit everyone!



Renée English - CPO RI

Renée gave an update of developments since last year which included the introduction of extended Safeguarding Trust training for panel members. The extended training involves a shared session for panel members and youth workers with a second session solely for panel members. This model has been introduced in a number of dioceses. Further trainers have been added to the group since last year and they have proved a very welcome resource.

The group had an opportunity to discuss local issues and to make suggestions re future developments. It was heartening to share the progress that has been made in implementing Safeguarding Trust. Training has been provided and evaluations commenced in some areas where there was previously a deficit. There remains plenty of room to improve practice of course!

It was agreed that a SGT booklet for workers would be a welcome addition to resources.

Margaret Yarr, CPO for Northern Ireland spoke about her recruitment of a group of trainers to provide SGT training for workers, previously provided by panels or by Margaret herself.

Kyle Petrie made a presentation to the group on aspects of electronic communication and how it impinges on young people and those working with them. Kyle is currently studying for a M.Sc in Cyber psychology at DIADT.

Topics covered included: an introduction to technology and internet safety basics, safe social networking and cyber bullying. Electronic communication is central to young people and has both positive and negative potential. These are areas where technology is rapidly evolving. There is a need for guidelines development for organisations working with young people.

Kyle has also provided workshops for parents and young people in schools. If you would like to talk to him about providing a workshop for your parish, he may be contacted at kylep3@mac.com or on 086 3694972.

Clergy Training

The role of clergy is vital to the implementation of Safeguarding Trust as they hold key positions in relation to Select Vestries, panels and in all aspects of youth ministry.

In Northern Ireland there has been an annual training day for clergy for a number of years. Those invited are newly ordained clergy, new incumbents, clergy who have recently arrived in the jurisdiction, clergy who have returned to parish work after a break in ministry and those who would like to refresh their knowledge of the child protection policy.



Margaret Yarr - CPO NI

The training is carried out by Reverend Ian Ellis and Margaret Yarr. This year Renée took an active part in the training in Moira Co. Down on 14th October.

As many clergy will have a career spanning both jurisdictions, a 'whole island' approach is felt to be beneficial. For the first time a similar training day was offered to clergy in the Republic. This was held on 6th October at Church House Dublin and was facilitated by Renée and Margaret. Jennifer Byrne also gave a presentation on the Garda vetting requirements.

Both training days were lively and interactive with no shortage of issues for discussion. It is planned to offer a clergy training day in the Republic on an annual basis.



Church of Ireland Theological Institute

A joint presentation was also delivered to 2nd year students at Church of Ireland Theological Institute on 19th October.

There will be a further training session in January for students who do not attend the Institute on a full-time basis. A number of copies of Safeguarding Trust have been supplied to the Institute library as a resource for students.



9.1.3 Checklist for leaders - safe premises

9.1.6A Triennial evaluation form for use by diocesan support/training teams



Has your organisation held a fire drill in the past year?



People are inclined to put off this important task. Plan to hold one soon if this is the case. Rectors could consider holding one during a church service. Olive Good, SGT trainer and parish evaluator, has supplied the following template for fire evacuation procedures.

Fire Evacuation Procedures

It is the responsibility of the leader of every user group at (Insert Parish Name) Hall to ensure that the leaders, officers, helpers, membership and visitors to his / her group are informed and trained in these Fire Evacuation Procedures.

In the case of fire the rapid evacuation of the premises is vital.

If you discover a fire, SOUND THE ALARM and LEAVE THE BUILDING.

The Fire Alarm consists of the loud, continuous ringing of bells in the (list where the bells are located).

If the Fire Alarm sounds leaders are to instruct members of their group as follows:

- Act with urgency but DO NOT PANIC.
- Walk quietly and purposefully to the nearest exit
- DO NOT STOP to collect personal items
- DO NOT take personal risks
- DO NOT talk or run
- Proceed to the Assembly Area
- Remain quiet while the leader of each group takes a roll call of his/her group.

Users should exit the Parish Hall/Centre through the following exits (list various rooms and exit that should be used)

The assembly area is (indicate the assembly point)

At the assembly area leaders should take a roll call of members of their group.

Call the Fire Brigade after the building is evacuated.

Check out the Safeguarding Trust website!

Forms and Resources in Part 9 of Safeguarding Trust may be downloaded from the website. It is important to note that they are not amendable. This protects the content and ensures that no important words are omitted. However if you wish to customise documents for your parish, please contact Vicki who can forward forms to you in a format which you can then amend for your own parish's use.

A list of **HSE Child Protection and Welfare Services** contacts is provided in 9.5 of Safeguarding Trust.

A number of these have changed and the HSE has provided an updated list. This can be downloaded from the SGT website and inserted in your SGT ringbinder.

The Safeguarding Trust website may be accessed via www.ireland.anglican.org/policy





Safeguarding Trust awareness raising in parishes

Everyone involved in parish life needs to be aware of the Church of Ireland's commitment to safeguarding children. Here are some ideas gleaned from around the dioceses as to how to keep it high on the agenda.

Have a Safeguarding Trust Sunday when the rector and/or youth workers speak about the Code and the role of the panel and workers

Panel members could be introduced during a service or in a setting such as Sunday School (in an age appropriate manner) or at the SGT training for panel members and workers

Panel members' names could be provided in the parish magazine along with the names of organisation leaders

Photographs of panel members could be added to the notice for parish premises 9.2.1 (with their agreement). This makes them more 'child friendly', especially when placed at an appropriate level

Provide an information pack for parents of children attending parish organisations to include information on Safeguarding Trust.

Parish and diocesan magazines could have a running section on SGT, drawing on items from the newsletter

Parish and diocesan websites can also provide information about Safeguarding Trust

Does your parish have other good ideas?

We would be glad to hear about them for publication in future newsletters.

OUR POLICY

"It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children sharing in its ministry with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm."

Vetting Update



PPS Numbers

The Garda Vetting Unit has brought to our attention that PPS numbers of individuals should not be supplied on the Garda Vetting Application Form.

The Vetting Unit has amended its forms and has removed the PPS number field. We will ensure that all future forms sent to parishes will not include this field but, in the meantime, please ask your volunteers to complete all other boxes as usual and we will blank out any PPS numbers on forms we receive until the new forms are in circulation.

In the event of a disclosure...

If the Parish decides that a disclosure does not render the applicant unsuitable, the applicant should be informed that the disclosure will be noted on his/her file but kept in a signed and sealed envelope in a secure location.

CONTACT US

Renée English - Child Protection Officer
Direct dial 01 4125662
Email renee.english@rcbdub.org

Jennifer Byrne
Direct dial 01 4125624
Email jennifer.byrne@rcbdub.org

Vicki Hastie
Direct dial 01 4125618
vicki.hastie@rcbdub.org

General Synod Board of Education (RI)
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Main telephone 01 4978422
Fax 01 4978821

