

Diocese of Kilmore

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Safeguarding Newsletter September 2021

Message from Bishop Martin Hayes



Welcome this Safeguarding Newsletter in the Diocese of Kilmore as a way of highlighting the fact that child and adult safeguarding is central to the life and mission of the Diocese. I thank my predecessor, Bishop Leo O'Reilly for his great leadership and commitment in establishing robust safeguarding practices throughout the diocese during his time as bishop for twenty-two years. I also thank Monsignor Liam Kelly for continuing to uphold this high standard of safeguarding for the twenty-one months before I was ordained as bishop. I wish to reassure you that these good safeguarding practices will be maintained.

Due to the ongoing restrictions in place regarding Covid 19, three full day training sessions and two information sessions were delivered during 2020 and none so far during 2021. It is hoped that we will be able to resume safeguarding training soon. The safeguarding office remains open during Covid 19.

It continues to be everyone's responsibility to be vigilant and thus ensure safe environments for our young people to take part in the life and mission of the church. I want to pay tribute to the 470 plus volunteers working in the area of safeguarding in the diocese. This includes clergy, parish safeguarding representatives, parish leaders and volunteers, parish recruitment committees, chairs of parish pastoral councils, pastoral assistants, permanent deacons, diocesan advisers, Lourdes pilgrimage leaders, support persons, trainers, the diocesan

committee for safeguarding, the advisory panel for case management, designated liaison persons and the director of safeguarding.

In response to the restrictions placed by Covid 19 upon pastoral ministry with young people we have developed the polices and documentation for online ministry with children so as to support their families in the journey of faith formation. I would like to acknowledge and thank all involved in this initiative.

Without everyone's generosity, work and commitment, none of our safeguarding policies and procedures would be implemented. Thank you all so much.

Martin Hayes,
Bishop of Kilmore.



How Safeguarding Practice is Reviewed in the Diocese of Kilmore

Our safeguarding policies and procedures are in place for many years, but we must never become complacent and remain vigilant at all times to ensure the safety of children and adults who participate in church activities. Each of us has a duty of care and responsibility to do all we can to ensure that they are protected and safe. We review safeguarding practice by completing the following:

- a three year strategic safeguarding plan
- parish support visits

- annual parish audits
- an annual report by the Designated Liaison Person to Bishop Martin Hayes
- an annual report by the Director of Safeguarding to Bishop Martin Hayes regarding compliance with the seven standards in safeguarding
- notification in writing to the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) regarding case management and compliance with the standards

Feedback

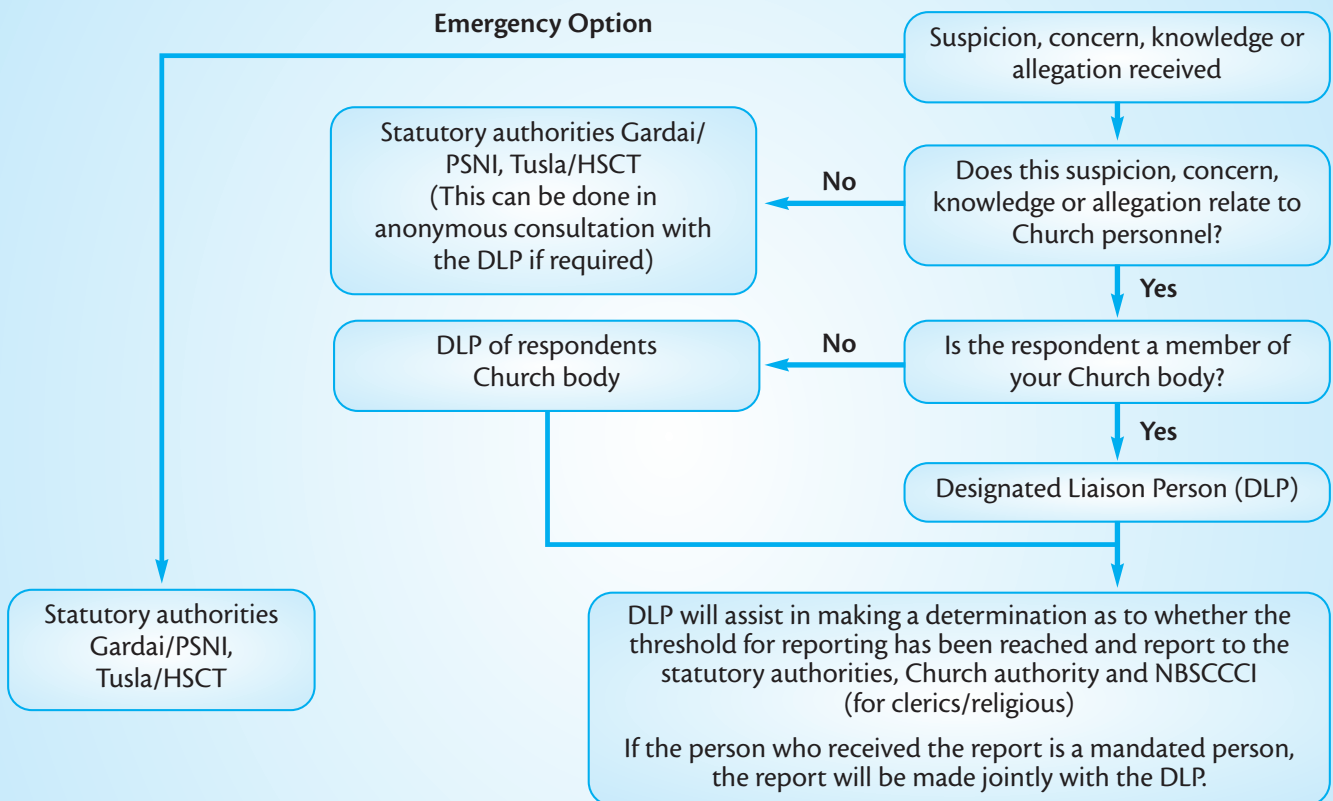
Feedback on our present safeguarding arrangements is always welcome and you are encouraged to do so. Each parish holds an annual safeguarding information session at which feedback on our safeguarding practices is sought from those who attend. Please give your feedback, thoughts

and suggestions during these information sessions. The parish safeguarding representative will forward them to the diocesan safeguarding office. You can also give your feedback directly to the diocesan safeguarding office by contacting Suzie Duffy at: safeguarding@kilmorediocese.ie

Reporting Abuse

The diocese continues to develop its service for responding to and managing allegations. Any allegation of child abuse received by the diocese is referred without delay to the appropriate civil authorities, to whom any information or documentation in the possession of the diocese is made available. The diocese works closely with Tusla, Child and Family Agency and the Gardaí to ensure the safety of children.

Interagency meetings take place regularly, ensuring appropriate information exchange and effective case management occurs. If you have a concern or wish to discuss a safeguarding query please see the contact details on page 3. The flowchart below explains the Church's reporting procedure. A concern can also be about someone who has been abused and whose abuser is deceased.



Thresholds

Only allegations, suspicions, concerns or knowledge which reach the threshold for reporting are to be passed to the statutory authorities. These are:
ROI – Children First Act, 2015, Part 3 (14), (1) defines the threshold for reporting as ‘... where a mandated person knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect, on the basis of information that he or she has received, acquired or becomes aware of in the course of his or her employment or profession as such a mandated

person, that a child (a) has been harmed, (b) is being harmed, or (c) is at risk of being harmed, he or she shall, as soon as practicable, report that knowledge, belief or suspicion, as the case may be, to the Agency’ (Child and Family Agency).
NI – Co-operating to Safeguard Children, 2003, 2.3 and Children NI Order 2(2) and 50 (3), defines the threshold for reporting as ‘reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm’.

If you have a safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past, you may contact any of the following.

Kilmore Diocese

Suzie Duffy,
Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Cullies, Cavan, Co. Cavan. 049 4375004, ext 105
Email: safeguarding@kilmorediocese.ie
Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie

Paul Cullen,
Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Cullies, Cavan, Co. Cavan. 049 4375004, ext 109
Mobile: 085 2578490
Email: safeguarding@kilmorediocese.ie
Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie

An Garda Síochána

Superintendent Barry Walsh,
Garda National Protective Services Bureau,
Harcourt Square, Dublin 2. DO2 DH42.
01 6663430
Email: GNPSB_SCMU@garda.ie

PSNI

20 Queen Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 7JR.
101 (non emergency) 999 (emergency)
Online reporting:
www.psni.police.uk/advice_information/child-protection/

Tusla

Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee Cross,
Cavan, Co. Cavan. 049 4377305
Health Care Unit, Rooskey, Co. Monaghan. 047 30400

HSC

Gateway Team, Derry: 048 71314090
(Mon - Thurs: 9.00am - 5.00pm, Fri: 9.00am - 4.30pm)

NBSCCCI

National Office for Safeguarding Children,
New House, St Patrick's College,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare. 01 5053124
Email: admin@safeguarding.ie

Parish Safeguarding Support Visits

Parish support visits are now a requirement of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. It is envisaged that visits will take place every three years. The purpose of the visit is to offer help and support to the clergy, the chairs of pastoral councils and parish representatives in all aspect of safeguarding, monitoring files, record keeping and addressing any difficult issues that have arisen. The visits will be carried out under the remit of being supportive and monitoring compliance with safeguarding standards. Since our last newsletter we have visited thirty parishes. Unfortunately, Covid 19 has delayed visiting the remaining four parishes.



Online Ministry with Children



As the pandemic and restrictions continue we cannot engage or minister with children or young people in the manner in which we are accustomed to doing. There is a real opportunity to embrace online ministry so we can continue with our valued ministry with children, albeit in a different format. In January 2021, a group of key safeguarding personnel in the diocese attended online training, provided by the NBSCCCI, for 'Online Ministry with Children'. Since then, the staff of the diocesan safeguarding office has developed an online package for use throughout the diocese to ensure that this ministry is conducted in as safe a manner as possible. The online world offers both opportunity and challenge. For this reason, there are a lot of safeguards to put in place before a parish can engage in online ministry with children. If your parish would like to engage in ministry with children online, please contact Suzie Duffy at: safeguarding@kilmorediocese.ie

Annual Safeguarding Sunday

Our fifth annual Safeguarding Sunday will be held throughout the diocese on the weekend of the 25th & 26th of September 2021. The purpose of Safeguarding Sunday is to create a greater awareness of safeguarding in our parishes and also to recognise the significant contribution of the faithful in ensuring that our diocesan safeguarding children policy and our diocesan adult safeguarding policy are being adhered to. Special Prayers of the Faithful and homily notes have been prepared and distributed to all the clergy for inclusion in the weekend liturgies.

A Survivor's Prayer

As a Survivor of child sexual abuse, I would like to share my journey through Prayer-from Darkness into Light - from the terrible Pain and Suffering due to the abuse to the Healing and Peace I found in the Love of Jesus for me - in the Hope that it will help others to Heal and bring God's Love and Peace into their Lives too.

My Dearest Lord Jesus,

Thank you most sincerely for coming into my Heart. I am sorry for closing my Heart to you and for shutting you out of my life. I was so hurt and in so much pain.

My Heart was so wounded. I was not able to see that you Loved me and that you did not cause my pain. I blamed you for letting others hurt me. My Heart was like a rock and I would not let your Love in because I did not know you or how to trust you. I did not know how to talk to you or what to say. I was afraid. I was angry. I was ashamed. I was not able to sit with myself and be at peace. There was too much turmoil in my head and Heart. I was not able to pray.

However, I always had Hope and slowly I began to chip away at the rock in my Heart. I found you in the stillness as I began to learn to sit with myself and slowly began to pray.

Then one day the rock rolled away from my Heart and I started to learn to trust you. I began to realise that you would not hurt me as you loved me too much.

You taught me to be patient and to always persevere. There were many times when I felt my cross was too heavy to carry and I needed proof that you were with me. You gave me that proof.

You sent me your own prayer letting me know that you were drying my tears and always by my side. You gave me the strength and courage to carry my cross. You were even helping me to carry it. You gave me the courage to speak out. I now realise that you had been showering me with Love and Blessings but I had not been able to see them. You were gently healing my wounds by opening my Heart to let go of the hurt and pain.

I am learning how to talk to you. I am learning how to pray to you. I am learning how to listen to you. You have shown me how to Love myself.

Our relationship is starting to grow. Above all I have now found you in the Sacraments and especially in the Blessed Sacrament at Mass and in Eucharistic Adoration. I have also found you in the Sacrament of Confession. You are touching my Heart in a most special way – your Love and Peace is now deep in my Heart.

Thank you for not giving up on me. Thank you for healing my pain and suffering. Thank you for bringing your Love and Peace into my Heart – A Love that is so special and a Love I hope I can share with others. I will never give up Hope as I know that you are with me and always by my side. You are my friend and especially now in times of uncertainty I am able to turn to you.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

