



# Safeguarding Development Newsletter

(Issue 12 – Dec. 2019)



***WAITING & HOPING***

## SDG Autumn Update

The Safeguarding Development Group (SDG) met 5 October and 16 November. The chair Annette Comiskey (Waterford) resigned in September and we are very grateful for her valuable contribution to our work. A new chair will be appointed in the New Year.



### Mid-term Chapter – ‘Safeguarding Report’

Joan Donovan (Drogheda) spoke at the Mid-term Chapter in Emmaus in June. She provided a progress report on the work of the SDG and urged all present to commit to the important ministry of safeguarding and creating safe and sacred spaces.

### Safeguarding Audit Reports

Each LSG completed an annual ‘Progress Report’ (or in the case of Dublin parishes a diocesan audit) in May 2019. The SDG was delighted to see evidence of immense progress in initiating and maintaining safeguarding standards throughout the province.

Follow-up audit visits by Tony Murphy (Safeguarding Officer) are currently being undertaken for each parish/community in the province. These visits once again highlight good practice in so many areas. Some shortcomings, common to multiple church communities, highlight issues that continue to pose challenges locally. Each

LSG will be able to address practical challenges that have come to light within the current ‘Action Plan’. Meanwhile, the SDG will work to provide enhanced support in these matters in the new *Safeguarding Development Plan 2020*.

### Membership Renewal

Membership renewal within the SDG is underway to ensure fresh



ideas and fair representation from across the Province. Since September, Nuala Fahey (Dungarvan) and Lorraine Collins (Drogheda) have joined the group and we look forward to working with them. Further recruitment is planned next year.

### Child Safeguarding Development Plan

The 2017-2019 plan has in large part been implemented as we approach year end. The new plan 2020-2022 is in development and will reflect your feedback from across the Province.



### Safeguarding Network Meeting

Plans are progressing for the next Safeguarding Network Meeting in Horse & Jockey on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There, we hope to introduce you to the new SDG membership and launch the new *Safeguarding Development Plan 2020 - 2022*.

## **Friars who Minister with Children in External Agencies/Church Bodies**

That the Augustinian Province in Ireland has signed-up to *Safeguarding Children 2016* is abundantly clear to all friars, lay volunteers and staff. If there is any grey area it relates to what happens when a friar is ministering in a school, hospice or youth organization for instance? The answer is simple: the safeguarding policy of that organization, diocese or agency applies. In other words, the OSA Policy does not apply.

Each friar must sign-up to a separate policy and abide by the practices in place, as well as participate in appropriate training if requested. That is why each OSA *Safeguarding Progress Report* (4.5) asks two specific questions regarding 'OSA Friars & External Ministry':

*"Is a record maintained of OSA Friars who minister to children in organisations other than the OSA Community/Church/Parish?"*

*If YES, has the Friar signed a written agreement to follow the Safeguarding Policy & procedures of the other organization?"*

The sample template opposite can assist friars and Local Safeguarding Groups to record the relevant information. A blank A4 version can be had on request from the Safeguarding Officer.

To take this approach is to avoid any misunderstanding on the part of friars and the external organization/Church Body. There is double protection here: (1) the external agency confirms it has a safeguarding policy and procedures in place and (2) the friar understands and acknowledges that while working in a

particular role he must adhere fully to the agency's policy and procedures.

While a Celebret is akin to a 'Ministry Passport', working in a specific role with children in an external agency will require a 'Safeguarding Visa'. Some friars based on experience may claim: 'Nobody ever asked me to sign-up!' If that is the case, then ask the relevant person in the agency in which you externally minister to sign the confirmation statement below; to be sure, to be sure.

### **OSA Friars & External Ministry with Children**

#### **Section 1: To be completed by representative of external organisation/Church Body.**

Fr. Peader Denby osa has ministry with children in (title) St. Simeon's Children's Hospice as a (role) Chaplain.

On behalf of St. Simeon's, I am happy to state that an appropriate Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are in place and that Fr. Denby is fully aware and compliant with these.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Section 2: To be completed by Augustinian Friar.**

I, Peader Denby verify that I am aware of the Safeguarding Policy & Procedures of St. Simeon's Children's Hospice and undertake to adhere fully to them.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Mandatory Reporting & Mandated Persons: What is the difference?**

All Church personnel within the Catholic Church throughout the island of Ireland are under moral obligation to mandatorily report child protection allegations, knowledge, suspicions or concerns (except when it is notified to clerics during the sacrament of reconciliation).

Those classed as Mandated Persons in the Republic of Ireland are obliged under the law to pass on concerns to Tusla with whom legal responsibility rests.

### *Who is a Mandated Person?*

All clerics and religious are to be considered Mandated Persons as they are included in Schedule 2 (Children First Act) as 'member of the clergy (howsoever described) or pastoral care worker (howsoever described) of a Church or other religious community'.

Volunteers are not Mandated Persons under the Children First Act 2015. However, in a small number of cases where DLPs or Deputy DLPs are volunteers they are classed as Mandated Persons under Church standards.

Mandated Persons have two main legal obligations:

(1) To report harm of children, above a defined threshold in consultation with and to Tusla;

(2) To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

For further information follow this link:  
<https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandated-persons/>

## **A Prayer of Hope**

“Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living;



to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young.”

- Pope Francis (2014)

***OSA Safeguarding  
Network***

***28 March 2020***

***10.30am – 3.30pm***

***Horse & Jockey  
Hotel***