



Safeguarding Development Newsletter

(Dec. 2018 – Issue 8)



(Erland Sibuea is an Indonesian artist based in Bali)

*For to us a child is born. To us a son is given;
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

His name will be called Wonderful,

Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9.6)

OSA Safeguarding: Promoting Safe & Sacred Spaces

Safeguarding Development Group Report

The Safeguarding Development Group had their last meeting of 2018 on November 24th at the Aisling Hotel. We progressed the development of the following initiatives which we hope to bring to Provincial Council for approval in 2019.

1. Revised Local Audit Template

This audit document was redrafted to make it easier for local safeguarding groups to record all safeguarding activities undertaken at local level. It will also improve the collection of accurate information to demonstrate that standards and procedures are being followed.



2. Role of Volunteers & Recruitment

Safeguarding procedures must be considered in the recruitment of new ministry volunteers. A draft application form has been created. Up to 20 different ministries have been identified and it is recognised that in some instances a Prior may need assistance to ensure safe recruitment procedures.



It is thought that ministry co-ordinators could play an integral role in recruitment, when new

volunteers seek to, or are asked to, join a ministry. The group considered that the creation of a small brochure outlining the desirable skills for each ministry would help both co-ordinators and parishioners alike.

3. Draft Social Media Guidelines

The group considers the need to develop Social Media Guidelines in relation to mobile technology (including photography, video-link, social media communication). Legal opinion will be sought on the question of responsibility and liability.



4. Safeguarding Promotion W/End (17/18 Nov. 2018)

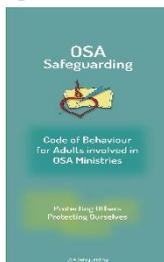
The letter from "Sue and Joe" with a response from Fr Hennebry was distributed to most communities on Safeguarding Weekend as an aid to highlight child safeguarding and the OSA's commitment to sacred and safe spaces. Feedback about the material was mixed and, in some instances, alternative activities were undertaken. The group recognised that the concerns expressed were genuine and real and will consider different ways to consult locally in future.



OSA Code of Behaviour

Introducing the 'OSA Code of Behaviour for Adults' is intended to have a number of purposes in supporting Safeguarding practices:

- A. To make explicit the values underpinning Augustinian ministries involving children;
- B. To source volunteers contact details in establishing a current list or database of who is involved in what ministries and/or church related activities;
- C. To identify who has or needs to receive Safeguarding Training and who needs to be vetted or re-vetted depending upon their role.



The Code applies to all lay co-workers and friars. It offers a baseline for good practice in creating safe relationships.

OSA Vetting Policy (July 2016)

That all Friars in ministry be vetted, and re-vetted every four years, along with the following categories of voluntary and staff roles active within the local church/parish and related ministries: Children's Liturgies & Youth Folk Choirs; Parish Sister(s); Visiting Baptism Team, Bereavement Team & Eucharistic Ministers; Sacristan & Co-ordinator(s) of Altar Servers and Local Safeguarding Representatives.

When a Safeguarding policy is agreed it follows that appropriate behaviour and practices will literally be seen to put flesh on the bones of our thoughtful position. For instance, one could assume that all friars active in any way in ministry are currently vetted by the National Vetting Bureau. Vetting Clearance confirms that an individual's past life is clear of any offences under the law. In other words, one is given an 'all clear' and that is very reassuring for everyone. However, very often too much attention is given to NVB clearance. The most important focus for all of us should be on our current attitudes, behaviours and practices in working and volunteering together as adults and then for some, ministering in the presence of children and young people.

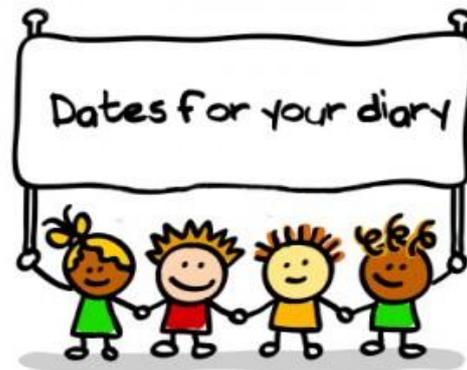
At a most basic level the re-assurance that vetting clearance offers is a minimum requirement as part of our Safeguarding practice for all friars and the other staff or volunteer roles mentioned in the OSA policy position. Separate to the NVB exercise, it is necessary for each Local Safeguarding Group (LSG) to check annually that all who need to be vetted are in 'good standing' and that any renewals are identified and processed in good time.

The 'Local Audits' are intended to contain such relevant information and do, in most cases, with some recent examples of renewal dates having been missed or not incorporated into the Safeguarding 'Action Plan'. Having an up to-date local database of friars, staff and volunteers will highlight such information at a glance.

But then we need to look a little deeper. Checks are required. For instance, where a friar, regardless of age is involved in any form of ministry, vetting clearance is required. Having gathered vetting data from the *2017-2018 Local Audits* based on eighty-four (84) friars, the following picture emerges:

1. Valid Clearance is held by 26 Friars – though the relevant month is not provided in 6 cases.
2. No information is recorded for 9 Friars.
3. Out of Date Information confirms that clearance is overdue for 19 Friars.
4. No Vetting is required for 21 Friars who are fully retired.
5. No Vetting is required for 7 Friars working overseas – except when ministering in Ireland.

Obviously, further analysis of this data will happen in the New Year with each friar primarily in categories 2 & 3 above being contacted to either provide valid data and/or commence a new application process immediately. This process will be undertaken in consultation with each Prior/P.P.



Safeguarding Network 2019

23 March (10.30am – 4pm)

Horse & Jockey Hotel,

Co. Tipperary.

Nollaig Shona agus

athbhliain faoi

mhaise dhaoibh

