

Safeguarding News

December 2013

Hi Everyone!

Just a quick email to wish each of you a wonderful Christmas filled with the blessings of this season. I would like to thank you all so much for the kind support and patience you have shown me in my new role as Safeguarding Coordinator. It is hard to imagine that I am almost here 10 months!

I was delighted to have had the opportunities to meet and talk so many of you this year and look forward to meeting the rest of you in 2014. I am excited about the many possibilities we have to look forward to in the New Year. I have just given a little overview below of some of the activities which took place in 2013 and those we hope to achieve in 2014:

2013

- February: The Diocese of Ferns was Audited by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church and met 47 out of the 48 standards.
- March: I took over the role of Safeguarding Coordinator from Sr. Helen O'Riordan.
Launch of New Safeguarding Representatives; Dervla Tierney, Georgina White, Eileen Neville, Barbara Murphy, Mary O'Connor, Noreen Medley Foley, Marion Weston, Ann Jackman took place throughout the year.
- April: Questionnaires and Vetting Forms sent out to all Reps enabling me to get an overview of some of the activities and needs of Safeguarding Representatives within the Parishes.
- May-Sept: I completed my training with the National Office, qualifying me to provide Safeguarding Training within the Diocese.
- October: Delivered my first training Session to 20 Parish Reps
- November: Delivered my second training Session to 20 Parish Reps and Youth Workers
- December: Set up a Sub-Committee of 12 Safeguarding Representatives to address the needs which arose out of the training sessions and the questionnaires. (The representatives were invited from training days and more are welcome!)

2014

- January First meeting of Sub-Committee to take place to support the following initiatives:
- Brochure detailing the Role of the Safeguarding Representatives
 - Preparation of Social Event in April/May
 - Enabling the theme of 'Cherishing our Children' for 2014
 - Setting objectives for 2014/2015

- Addressing and meeting the support needs of Safeguarding Representatives and Clergy in fulfilling the safeguarding role.
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| February | Launch of new Safeguarding Representatives; Michelle Doyle, Mairead & Paul Cummins, Eileen Moitie, Ann Murphy. <i>(If any Safeguarding Representative has not yet been launched in their Parish please let me know)</i> . |
| March | Support Meetings with Reps and their Priests as requested. Distributing details of Procedures for Non-Parish Groups using Parish Property. (Currently being approved by Insurance Company). |
| April/May | Completion of Vetting of all Safeguarding Representatives. Social Event for Safeguarding Representatives and Clergy from all Parishes |
| June-Dec | Meeting with members of the Clergy regarding Safeguarding Fulfilling the aims and objectives as set by the Sub-Committee and approved by the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee. |

You will notice I have 2 attachments to this email. One is the Garda Vetting Form for Safeguarding Representatives. All New Reps need to fill this in and any existing Reps that have not yet submitted their Vetting Form must do so asap as it is now mandatory since March 2013.

I have also attached the 'Sweet Quiz'. This is a quiz I use sometimes in Training and it is a bit of fun. On the training day in November, many of you asked for a copy of same for around the Christmas Dinner table so I have made up a blank quiz and the answers are on the second page!! Have fun!

Well, that's it for this year. I will end on a blessing which I pray for each one of you. May God hold you and your families in the palm of His hand.

May you be blessed

With the spirit of the season, which is peace,

The gladness of the season, which is hope,

And the heart of the season. which is love.

Colette

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