



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

January 2016

Safeguarding Team

Designated Liaison Person	Marian Stack Mobile 085-1055992 marianstack@hotmail.com
Ass. Designated Liaison Person	Rt Rev Mgr Denis Lennon Tel: 053-9124417
Safeguarding Co-Ordinator	Colette O'Doherty Mobile 087-9474513 Tel: 053-9174972 coletteodoherty@ferns.ie
Members of the Safeguarding Committee:	Fr. Gerry O'Leary (Chair) Fr. Brian Broaders Fr. Aodhán Marken Muriel Byrne (Glynn) Seamus Byrne (Kilmore) Tom Murphy (Oylegate) Margaret Kehoe (New Ross) Catherine Murphy (Gorey) Eithne Murphy (Monageer) Eilis Teal (Monamolín) Una Murphy (Enniscorthy) Dervla Tierney (Enniscorthy)
Local Safeguarding Representatives:	There are currently 105 LSR's throughout the Diocese of Ferns.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!

What a fast year 2015 was! It seemed to be over in a blink of an eye! I am not sure why it seemed so fast, but perhaps it is a reflection of the lack of time we spend in the present. Life can seem very fast and between meetings, schedules, forward planning, catching up, family life, etc., before we know it when we do lift our heads we are in another year!

This year, although we are ever evolving and working hard in the safeguarding of our Diocese, we are going to find time to connect with one another and thank God for all that is around us as we welcome in the Year of Mercy and ask Him to bless each one of us in our various different roles within our Diocese. So I look forward to seeing you all soon!!

Colette O'Doherty



TRAINING & INFORMATION SESSIONS

The training section of safeguarding was as always a very active one in 2015 with ongoing training for new Safeguarding Representatives as well as the Pioneers, Bereavement Groups, Lourdes Helpers, Youth Groups etc.

In addition, we were delighted to invite existing Safeguarding Representatives to become part of our Training Team. Seven Reps successfully completed the facilitative training and are now available to the Diocese to support Colette, Fr Gerry & Fr Aodhan in training their training schedule.



SPIRIT YOUTH GROUP

The Safeguarding Office has launched a new Diocesan Youth Group called Spirit; a dynamic, exciting and motivational youth group aimed at 15/16 year olds. The framework is devised to encourage team work, positive peer support, friendship and a supportive value ethos.

Spirit is currently being piloted in the Wexford Branch of the Diocese and have enrolled 60 members and 20 leaders. The group are currently setting up workgroups within the parish community such as Able/Disable, Special Olympics, Nursing Homes, Tidy Towns, etc. Spirit members will also take part in a 10 week Personal & Spiritual Development Course. All successful members will receive a Certificate of Achievement by the Diocese of Ferns.



Some of the Local Safeguarding Representatives for the Diocese receiving their Certificates in Facilitation Skills. (Front left to right) Eilis Teal (Monamolín), Margaret Kehoe (New Ross), Bishop Denis Brennan, Dervla Tierney (Enniscorthy), Colette O'Doherty. (Back left to right) Fr Gerry O'Leary, Marian Stack (DLP), Fr Aodhan Marken, Una Murphy (Enniscorthy), Tom Murphy (Oylegate).

2016/2017 Training Plan

We are looking forward to providing Training for all the Diocese in 2016/2017 for all parish Clergy, volunteers and staff. It will be great to get out and about and visit you all whilst providing you with the up to date policies and procedures in ensuring our Diocese is a safe environment for everyone.

Safeguarding & Youth Matters Website

We are looking to give a face lift to the Safeguarding section of the Diocesan Website to reflect the activities of the Diocese as well as the new youth initiatives taking place. It is envisaged that on entering the Safeguarding & Youth Matters Website it will become an easy to use one stop shop for all your safeguarding requirements to include the following:

Events & News

Contact & Support

All Forms Online

Garda Vetting

Training Calendar

Policies & Procedures

Guidance

Youth Matters



THE DIOCESE OF FERNS

SAFE
GUARDING
OUR
CHILDREN

NEW DIOCESAN STANDARDS

The revised Standards and Guidance document will be comprised of an overarching policy, to be adopted across all dioceses and religious orders, congregations and missionary societies. This sets the commitment to safeguarding children; responding to and reporting

allegations, caring for the complainant and supporting and managing the respondent. It is based on Gospel values, civil and international legislation and lessons from the past.

The Induction to the Revised Policy and Standards is scheduled to take place in February and will be attended by members of the Safeguarding Office and Safeguarding Committee as well as the Designated Person for the Diocese. This will inform our training programme for 2016.

Clergy Workgroup



The Clergy Workgroup was set up in 2014 to support the Safeguarding Office in discussing 'the way forward'. The group meets 2 to 3 times a year as necessary. It has been instrumental in supporting the Safeguarding Office in initiatives such as paving the way for the Spirit Youth Group as well as highlighting the needs of the parishes within a safeguarding context. It has also provided support to the National Safeguarding Office in their exploration of the 'theology of safeguarding' and will continue to explore this topic.

This year the Clergy Workgroup will discuss the framework for the Training Programme for 2016/2017 and address questions such as safeguarding enabling Ministry. The group consists of 14 members of clergy. It is an open group and we welcome any other members of clergy who would like to be involved.

Finally.....

I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of you for your valuable support to the Diocese. The role of Safeguarding could not be done without each and everyone one of you. Your commitment enables joyful participation in all activities of the Church for every member of our community. May God continue to bless us in our work and I wish for each of you a very blessed Year of Mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ,

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

(Pope Francis' Prayer for the Holy Year of Mercy)



If anyone would like to discuss any of the topics in this Newsletter or find out more about Safeguarding please contact: Colette O'Doherty; Safeguarding Co-Ordinator on 053-9174972