

Review of Safeguarding Practice

Diocese/Order: Cork and Ross

15th July 2013.

Recommendation	Action- Progress	National Office Response
<p>1. Bishop Buckley needs to ensure that the Cork & Ross Diocesan Child Protection Committee reviews and, if necessary revises the current <i>Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Cork and Ross</i> to satisfy himself that it is consistent with <i>Children First 2011</i> and with the HSE guidance document <i>Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook 2011</i>.</p>	<p>This review is currently in progress. November 1st 2013 is the target date for its publication. This will contain additional policies which have been developed since the Review of 2012. These policies are referred to in the revised Diocesan Action Plan 2015. A copy of this Action Plan is attached.</p>	
<p>2. Bishop Buckley extend the employment period of the second Designated Person post to three years, to be reviewed at that time.</p>	<p>Employment period has been extended as suggested. Ms. Cleo Yates has been appointed as Director of Safeguarding and Designated Officer. Fr. Liam O’Driscoll continues as a second Designated Officer.</p>	
<p>3. Diocesan Safeguarding Committee develop a Child Safeguarding Training Strategy which sets out the intentions of the Diocese, on an annual basis, to equip people with the knowledge and skills required to undertake their roles and submit for the approval and implementation of Bishop Buckley.</p>	<p>A Training Strategy for the 2013-2014 period is being developed and is due to begin implementation in September 2013. It will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. A third trainer will be ready to be part of the training delivery team by September 2013.</p>	
<p>4. The Diocese of Cork & Ross website home page have a specific Safeguarding Children icon for ease of access.</p>	<p>This icon is now in place on the home page of www.corkandross.org</p>	

<p>5. Bishop Buckley directs the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee to develop a Safeguarding Children Communications policy, with the assistance of appropriate professional communications personnel, for his endorsement and implementation.</p>	<p>A Safeguarding Children Communications policy has been drawn up and will be included in the revised publication of Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Cork & Ross referenced in Recommendation No. 1 above.</p>	
<p>6. Bishop Buckley, as a next step to establishing a best practice regime in the Diocese of Cork & Ross, would issue a Pastoral Letter on the matter of Safeguarding Children, in which he would specifically invite victims of clerical child abuse and other complainants to come forward.</p>	<p>A Pastoral Letter was issued by the Bishop and was read at all Masses in the Diocese on September 8th/9th 2012. A copy of this letter is attached.</p>	
<p>7. Bishop Buckley direct the Diocese of Cork & Ross Safeguarding Committee to develop an action plan that indicates what steps will be taken to keep children safe, who is responsible for implementing these measures and when these will be completed for his endorsement and implementation.</p>	<p>A Diocesan Action Plan, drawn up in November 2012, has been updated in Spring 2013. A copy of this action plan (Diocese of Cork & Ross Action Plan 2013) is attached, together with a copy of the previous action plan.</p>	
