



## Review of Safeguarding Practice

**Diocese/Order: Achonry**

<u>Recommendation</u>	Action- Progress
<p><b><u>Recommendation No. 1.</u></b></p> <p>The Diocesan Safeguarding Committee should review Criterion 1.6, with a view to inserting a clear statement about the role of the Church authority and of the Designated Person in managing priests and other diocesan personnel in respect of whom allegations have been made, but where the civil processes have been discontinued and/or completed.</p>	<p>This Recommendation has been drafted following consultation and guidance and suggestions from the National Board for Safeguarding Children. It is ready for implementation and for publication on diocesan website by December 2014.</p>
<p><b><u>Recommendation 2</u></b></p> <p>While Bishop Kelly has no authority over other bishops, the reviewers recommend that he should contact the bishops of the two retired priests advising that they put in place precepts which include: no public ministry; no unsupervised contact with children and no priest's clothing and ask them to forward a copy of the precept to the priests and Bishop Kelly for his records.</p>	<p>Bishop Brendan Kelly has written to the bishops of the two retired priests who live in the diocese and requested them to put the recommended precepts in place. These retired priests do not exercise a public ministry in the diocese.</p>
<p><b><u>Recommendation 3</u></b></p> <p>The Safeguarding Committee should consider Criterion 2.5 further and include a child/young person centred complaints policy in its next review of the policy and procedures</p>	<p>This Recommendation has been drafted following consultation and guidance from the National Board for Safeguarding Children. A child friendly leaflet is being circulated to the parishes, to be used for the induction of new altar servers and children in music ministry It is ready for implementation and for publication on diocesan website by December 2014.</p>



<p><u>Recommendation 4</u></p> <p>That the Bishop of Achonry makes arrangements for the careful inventory and transfer of all vetting files and other records from parishes to a secure location in the diocesan offices.</p>	<p>Bishop Brendan Kelly has made those arrangements and promulgated these new procedures for Garda Vetting at the Achonry Priests' Conference on 19th September 2014.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 5</u></p> <p>The Safeguarding Committee should review Standard 3, Criterion 3.6 in order to strengthen the mandate for 'whistleblowing'.</p>	<p>A new "whistleblowing" policy has been drafted following consultation and guidance from the National Board for Safeguarding Children and adopting the Common Policy of the Western Dioceses. It is ready for implementation and for publication on diocesan website.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 6</u></p> <p>The Safeguarding Committee should review Standard 3 Criterion 3.8 in order to strengthen the anti-discriminatory message.</p>	<p>Three bullet points have been added to Diocesan Policy at section 2(b) (i) and 2(b) (ii) to strengthen anti-discrimination policy and respect for differences.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 7</u></p> <p>The Safeguarding Committee should review Standard 3 Criterion 3.10, with the trainers, in order to give more direction on risk assessment for overnight trips.</p>	<p>A detailed section dealing with overnight and away trips has been developed to help identify risks, and train leaders. This includes a "Preparation Checklist for Overnight Trips".</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 8</u></p> <p>The Safeguarding Committee needs to ensure that a formal training needs analysis is carried out as the basis for the design, implementation and review of an annual training plan for the diocese.</p>	<p>Our newly drafted recommendations on formal training needs analysis adheres to the recent "Guidance for Delivery of Training and Awareness Training" from The NBSCCCI.</p>



<p><u>Recommendation 9</u></p> <p>Bishop Kelly, in conjunction with the Safeguarding Committee and the other key members of the safeguarding structure, need to review diocesan training capacity, in order to ensure that the resources are in place to achieve full compliance with Standard 4.</p>	<p>The diocese is committed to availing of training for a new accredited trainer, and other key roles when available from the NBSCCCI. The Diocese is committed to resourcing training and re-training as required. The Diocese will liaise with other dioceses regarding sharing of training personnel and resources. An annual review of training and training needs will be carried out .</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 10</u></p> <p>The bishop and the Safeguarding Committee should agree and implement a regular formal report from the committee to the bishop, addressing the state of safeguarding in the diocese.</p>	<p>The Safeguarding Committee will submit an annual written report to the Bishop on the implementation of Safeguarding Policies in the diocese. This will also include a report on training, training needs, a summary of the findings in the Parish Audits and suggestions from the parishes.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 11</u></p> <p>The Safeguarding Committee should, with the support of trainers, consider ways of directly involving children and young people in articulating and communicating their right to be safe.</p>	<p>The Trainer will give a course to Parish Safeguarding Representatives who will be involved in the induction of children into church activities and ministries. Material has been prepared consisting of the information about the rights of children to be safe, what constitutes abuse, a code of conduct for all involved in church activities and a questionnaire of the felt needs and rights of children</p>



<p><u>Recommendation 12</u></p> <p>The bishop, in consultation with the Safeguarding Committee, needs to develop a formal safeguarding communications policy for the diocese based on the principle of transparency and openness, knitting together all of the elements of the safeguarding structure, developing communication initiatives for children and young people and providing for management of the media as required.</p>	<p>An entirely new and expanded Communications Policy has been drawn up. This commits the Diocese to best practice, openness and transparency in Safeguarding Children. It recognises that the “Safeguarding” message is ongoing and continuous and will endeavour to explore all means available to communicate its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures as effectively as possible. This will include an annual Pastoral Letter or Newsletter and press releases as deemed appropriate.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 13</u></p> <p>Bishop Kelly, the Victim Support Person and the Safeguarding Committee need to develop and implement a diocesan strategy for reaching out to and supporting victims of clerical abuse.</p>	<p>A detailed section is to be inserted in the existing policy after Unit 6 (iii) “Counselling” and before Unit 6 (iv). This commits the diocese to offering support to survivors of clerical/religious abuse, and also a “support person” and pastoral outreach to all complainants. This section outlines the relatively new initiatives “Towards Healing”, “Caranua” and contact numbers for “Towards Peace” etc..</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 14</u></p> <p>Bishop Kelly and the Safeguarding Committee need to address Criterion 7.1 by developing and implementing a three year strategic safeguarding plan for the diocese.</p>	<p>An action plan for the next three years has been prepared for the core activities of Training, Policy Development, Diocesan Groups, Communication, Risk Assessment and Management, Working Partnerships, and Parish Safeguarding Representatives.</p>



Recommendation 15

Bishop Kelly and the Safeguarding Committee to design and develop child/young person friendly process for ascertaining their views on safeguarding (to be taken forward with Recommendations 3 and 12).

Achonry Audit 2013 : Page 27 of 30

This process is to train the Parish Safeguarding Representatives so as they will become involved in induction for childrens' church activities. This together with "Stay Safe Programme" taught in Catholic Schools will give awareness about safeguarding issues. A questionnaire has been developed to facilitate children giving their views on their needs and rights.



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**  
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH