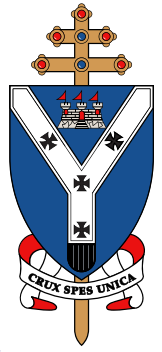


SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the November 2024 edition of the
Safeguarding Newsletter.

It's been a busy year in safeguarding and this
newsletter contains some items of interest which
we hope you will find useful.



In this edition:

- Carol Flockhart - COO
- Audit feedback
- New 2020 Act implementation
- Clergy day 2025
- Safe Worship Plans
- Safeguarding Tiers
- Meet the Team
- Does Santa need a PVG?

CAROL FLOCKHART
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



Welcome from our new Chief Operating Officer

“ I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all those involved in safeguarding in our parishes. I have already met a number of our priests and look forward to meeting more of you in the near future, as well as Parish Safeguarding Coordinators and Trainers.

My huge thanks go out to the clergy, PSC's Safeguarding Trainers, and group leaders for all the valuable work carried out in our parishes and organisations to ensure that the highest standards of safeguarding practice are maintained.

”

2023 Annual Audit

The audit for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 was late this year due to the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA) making some changes.

Thanks to all parishes for making a return - and particular thanks to the parish priests and PSC's who carried the biggest burden of work in preparing and submitting the audits.

A template for a Parish Action Plan has been sent to PSC's and we ask all parishes to create and submit a Safeguarding Parish Action Plan.



AUDIT KEY POINTS

You provided us with lots of data and we have created a plan to help us to work on your feedback. Please see below for most common comments and some information on what we are doing to address them:

- **NETWORKING** - PSC's would like more opportunities to meet each other
(we will be running networking sessions next year)
- **SAFEGUARDING TEAM** - PSC's would like more and regular contact with the central Safeguarding team
(we are already starting to plan for visits to deaneries and parishes)
- **INFORMATION & GUIDANCE** - PSC's would like more information and guidance to be made available online
(noted - see guidance below on general volunteers)
- **RISK ASSESSMENT AND TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING** - PSC's would like more input on this
(covered at National Conference, more information to follow)
- **SAFEGUARDING IN AN 'ONLINE' WORLD** - PSC's would like more information on online safety
(we plan to provide information on this to clergy in February)
(we will work on producing information for PSC's too)

Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020

The Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 is designed to improve the disclosure system by removing unnecessary barriers for people with convictions as they seek employment (or other) opportunities; and enhance the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

Key facts about the Act:

Simplified Products



Simplified products and members of the scheme will have more control over their data

Individualised Approach



A more individualised approach for childhood offenders to review convictions and provide proportionality

Roles rather than Work



Replacing the concept of 'regulated work' with 'regulated roles'

PVG will be Mandatory



PVG scheme becomes legally mandatory for those carrying out regulated roles

5-year membership



Lifetime membership ends and is replaced with 5-yearly renewal

Watch this space....



The Safeguarding Office will be communicating with you over the next few months to help you get ready



What can I do now to prepare?

- Make sure that any clergy and volunteers who are doing regulated work have appropriate clearances
- Ensure that people who are due their 5-year updates have updated their PVG
- Review all of your parish roles to check that they are correctly designated as regulated roles and contact the safeguarding office if you are unsure

Clergy Day 2025

The Annual Mandatory Safeguarding Training Day for Clergy will take place in February (date to be agreed). We have now secured a keynote speaker and look forward to bringing you more detail about the day over the next few weeks.



For 2025, our keynote speaker will be Stuart Allardyce from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. Stuart was the keynote speaker this year at the National Catholic Safeguarding Conference.

We will hear about the work that the foundation does in protecting vulnerable people and working with those who pose risks.

Prevention and vigilance are key elements of the safe environment that we always aim for in our Church places, people and activities.

The day will concentrate on two aspects of safeguarding which are currently topical and which have been raised as issues by clergy, volunteers and external agencies. They are:

- *Online harm* - looking at offending and how issues may emerge as safeguarding issues for clergy, including advice on responding to issues sensitively and signposting to relevant resources and supports.
- *Prevention of abuse in faith and belief contexts* - this will look at research and evidence in relation to risks in faith/belief settings, and how we can use the principles of situational prevention to reduce risk.

Stuart's input will build on work done by Sheila Ritchie (our Archdiocesan Diocesan Risk Assessment Team Chair) who managed a project for the City of Edinburgh Council on prevention of harm in Edinburgh libraries.



Stuart Allardyce is the Director of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Scotland

Safe Worship Plans

Audit returns showed that some parishes were unclear on what a "Safe Worship Plan" is. Safe Worship plans are used to managed registered sex offenders (RSO's) who wish to attend Mass. The safeguarding Office works with parishes to help them manage any RSO's.

Once an RSO is authorised for worship by the DRAMT, a meeting takes place between the offender, the parish priest, the PSC, the safeguarding office and statutory partners (police & social work). A contract is then agreed which details how worship can happen safely.



The contract may include arrangements for:

- Which Church and Mass the RSO attend
- Which seat they will sit in
- Arrival and Departure times
- What the RSO should do if they are approached by a vulnerable person
- Any restrictions on other Church liturgical and social events

A contract is agreed so that the offender can worship safely

Safeguarding Tiers & General Volunteers

PSC's will be aware that we have three tiers of volunteer. Tiers 1 and 2 are managed by the parish in collaboration with the Safeguarding Office. Tier 3 volunteers are managed by the parish locally. Below is a summary of requirements for each tier:

TIER 1

Regulated Roles covered by a PVG - e.g. Children's Liturgy Leader, or Eucharistic Minister taking communion to the sick.



Requirements

- Archdiocesan Application Form (with 2 referee details)
- 2 independent references
- Clear PVG check
- Safeguarding Training
- Approval Letter from Archdiocese

TIER 2

Roles involving some contact with vulnerable people but which don't qualify for PVG - e.g. Tots & Toddlers, Bereavement Group, Soup Kitchen & SVDP/Legion of Mary (if not visiting care home)



Requirements

- Archdiocesan Application Form (with referee details)
- 2 independent references
- Safeguarding Training
- Approval Letter from Archdiocese

TIER 3

General roles which do not involve regulated work, and contact with any vulnerable people is incidental - e.g. Passkeepers, readers, cleaners.



Requirements

- General Volunteer Application Form
- 1 independent reference

Managed solely by the parish. Paperwork is retained in the parish.

More information available on Archdiocesan website (under Safeguarding Resources) at:

<https://archedinburgh.org/administration/#safeguarding--resources--tier-3-general-volunteer-guidance-forms>

Meet the Team

YOUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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And finally...does Santa need a PVG?



In the run up to Christmas we are often asked if Santa needs a PVG?

In most instances Santa will **not** require to be PVG checked as there will be parents (or elves) present when the visits are taking place.

Santa will require to be PVG checked if the setup of the visits is such that he will have unsupervised contact with the children.

We would recommend that interactions take place with responsible people present, to remove the need for PVG checking