



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh 

Spring has arrived...

It may not feel like it given the weather we have had, but spring is officially here. I hope you had a prayerful and enjoyable Easter. This newsletter contains some new information and some updates on items which appeared in the previous newsletter.

Scott Mackenzie
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor



Spring

ANNUAL AUDITS - update



What work has been done so far?

All of the parish audits and religious group audits have now been submitted. We had a **100% return rate** which is fantastic. A global audit has also been submitted by the Safeguarding Office. All of this information has now been compiled by the independent safeguarding authority (SCSSA) and they have provided the Archdiocese with some summary reports. These reports have helped us to create our action plan, which we are currently working on.

Action Plan

The Action Plan is due to be submitted by Friday 19 May 2023. We will share the plan with you once it has been submitted and accepted.

Key themes

Some key themes emerged from the reports. We've detailed some of them below.

Parish life is now building back up after COVID. Safeguarding must continue to be in our minds.

More work is needed to achieve consistency in record keeping.

Mix of face-to-face AND online training to continue.

Support with Risk Assessments.

Safeguarding integrated into parish life including PSC input at parish pastoral council meetings.

More collaboration between parish priests and safeguarding coordinators.

YOUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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Regulated Work

We continue to receive questions about which roles are regulated and would therefore require a PVG check.

Assessing eligibility for regulated work has now changed and a more individual assessment of the tasks is often required. Roles like Children's Liturgy Leader and Eucharistic Ministers doing home visits are still regulated. For other roles, please check with the Safeguarding Office (contact details on previous page).



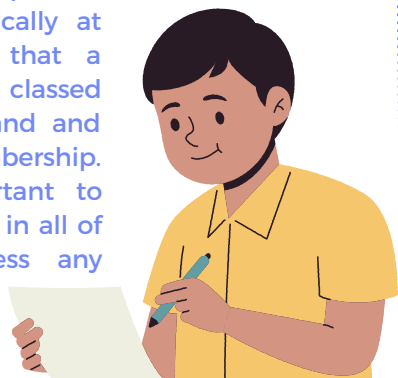
Questions and Answers

This section is dedicated to questions that have been received, which may readers may find helpful...



QUESTION: "We are setting up a new prayer group in our parish which is open to everyone. One of the people who would like to attend is a protected adult. Does this mean that the leader(s) need a PVG check?"

ANSWER: No. As the group is open to everyone and not targeted specifically at protected adults, then the fact that a protected adult will be attending is classed as "incidental" by Disclosure Scotland and would not require PVG membership. However it would still be important to maintain a watchful 'culture of care' in all of our church activities and address any concerns which may arise.



Going on holiday? Let us know

A reminder that if you are going on holiday and need supply for your parish to contact us well in advance. This is to check that the supplying priest has all of the necessary safeguarding paperwork in place. If in doubt, please contact us and we will be happy to help.

Your PVG update

THERE are quite a few clergy who are due to have their PVGs updated this year. This will also apply to any retired priests who still wish to supply. Please contact Margaret McCluskey in our Safeguarding Office who will be happy to arrange this for you. Her contact details are overleaf.

Anything else you would like to see in this newsletter?

This is your newsletter so please let us know of any topics that you would like to see included in future. Our next edition will be in the Summer.

New Training Course

We are in the process of switching to a new safeguarding training course. This single course will replace the current Part 1 and Part 2 courses. Most of our trainers have now been trained on delivery of the new course and will roll it out when all of the materials are finalised and ready.

Volunteers and Clergy who have done Safeguarding Induction Part 1 and Part 2 do not need to do any further training, however anyone who has only done Part 1 will be required to undertake the new course.

To see available courses, go to: archedinburgh.org, then click on Safeguarding > Training

