



ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

SAFE

This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this,
That you act justly, that you love tenderly,
That you walk humbly with your God
(Mic.6v.8)

Welcome to the autumn issue of the Safe Newsletter. In this issue we request your views on the annual mass for children which is facilitated by this Department.

On page 4 you will find the recently published statistics, from the NSPCC that highlight the scale of harm and abuse of children in our society, worrying statistics indeed, and perhaps a reminder to us all for continued vigilance in the application of our safeguarding policies and procedures in all our parishes; and for our volunteers to have sufficient awareness to recognise concerns and know how to act upon them.

Thankfully, we believe our parishes to be places of safety for our children, sadly, however, not all children are safe from harm in our communities.

Also in this issue I bring to your attention the offer of training input for parishes and pastoral areas.

In 2014 we hope to see the onset of nationally developed training courses for those who work with children and vulnerable adults.

Please feel free to make contact with any colleague in the Safeguarding Department if you need advice or support.

And Finally

As we move towards the end of 2013 a big thank you for all the efforts made and support given to safeguarding procedures in our parishes and Religious Orders.



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**Love simply
Love generously
Care deeply
Speak kindly
Leave the rest to
God**

Recent Training

During the course of September and October John (Safeguarding Advisor) has been pleased to meet many of you, as he has travelled around the Archdiocese delivering training on Safeguarding Awareness Raising for Vulnerable Adults, and also explaining the recent changes to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process.

A key message in that training has been the need to take Safeguarding Awareness to all those members of our Church communities who volunteer within our parishes. John has already received individual requests from some Parish Safeguarding Representatives to deliver further training this year, however given that we are in the build up to Christmas it would be a good idea to put this on hold until early in the New Year.

John will be looking to deliver Safeguarding Awareness Training for Volunteers from late January 2014 onwards, and would request that you actively seek to identify prospective dates before agreeing a mutually convenient date for John to deliver the training in your parish or pastoral area.

Safe Working Practices

Safeguarding is not solely about the protection of children, young people and those deemed to be vulnerable. We should always be mindful of taking the required steps to ensure that all volunteers within our parishes are protected from harm.

The key to staying safe therefore, is either to avoid situations where a threat to safety could occur or ensure where this is not practical that a written risk assessment is in place and that all engaged in the activity are familiar with it. There is a pro-forma Risk Assessment available which you will find useful and can be accessed from http://www.csasprocedures.uk.net/pdfs/form_case3.pdf

Here are some tips to assist you:

- * Have set procedures and information available for dealing with people calling to the church looking for help.
- * Ensure there is a method of raising the alarm in the event of an emergency.
- * If possible avoid visiting alone.
- * If you have to visit alone, tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to arrive home.
- * Carrying a mobile phone is a sensible precaution.
- * If walking, keep to busy, well-lit routes and avoid alleyways, subways and shortcuts through back lanes or wooded areas.
- * When driving, keep car doors locked and valuables out of sight.
- * If threatened do not attempt to hold on to cash. If you are asked to hand over cash then hand it over.



Christmas Fayre - Father Christmas

No doubt many of you will be actively preparing to celebrate Christmas by holding a Traditional Christmas Fayre and Santa Grotto. Each year the Department deals with a significant number of queries as to whether Father Christmas is required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS), here is some guidance which hopefully will be of assistance.

Where the Grotto takes place in the open or in a Parish Hall, Santa is not in a regulated activity as it is not in a specified place, and does not meet the definition of activities relating to children. Therefore Father Christmas is not eligible to have a DBS check. It is good practice however for Santa to be accompanied at all times by a helper.

Parish Audit

As we come toward the end of another year it is always a good time to stop and take some time to reflect on our work over the past year, i.e. what we have done and what we have failed to do and what we could have done if only we had the resources. As part of this reflective process, please find the time to review the list of those who volunteer within the parish and have a CRB / DBS and to kindly notify the Safeguarding Department of any volunteer who has retired or died during the year or if they hold a different role to the one originally indicated.

Common DBS Errors

- * Exact Role/s held within the parish to be clearly stated.
- * Identification documents not in date (please refer to the guidelines).
- * Section A5 is required to be completed even if the only name previously used has been a maiden name. The month and year of the name change should also be declared.
- * Date Format—all dates should be entered as MMYYYY except date of birth and date of signature which should be entered as DDMMYYYY.

Safeguarding Forms

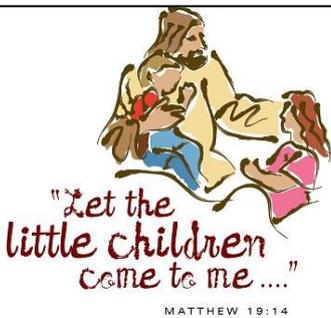
All safeguarding forms (with the exception of the DBS Application) can now be accessed via our website, www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk under forms library.

DBS Single Certificate Verification

Those who have attended the Safeguarding Awareness and DBS Training will be aware that effective from 17th June this year, the DBS issue Certificates to the applicant only. This change has presented challenges to the Safeguarding Verification Process for the Department. It is the National Policy of the Catholic Church of England & Wales that the individual provide their original Certificate to their Safeguarding Department within 28 days from the date of issue stated on the Certificate.

Failure for the Certificate to be presented / submitted to the Safeguarding Department within this timeframe will require a new Disclosure Application to be completed, as the accuracy of the former Disclosure will not be assured after 28 days have elapsed. If the individual has not presented their new Certificate to the Safeguarding Department within the timescale they will not be confirmed in post. Both the safeguarding representative and parish priest will be informed as will the individual of this decision. Please ensure that the individual does not take up any role until they have reapplied and the new Certificate has been verified by this Department.

Although the Department writes to each individual when we are aware that their Certificate has been issued to them, it would assist the Department if the parish representative informs them when completing the DBS application that on receipt of the DBS Certificate they are required to present the Certificate to the Department.



Celebrate the Child

The 'Celebrate the Child' Mass has for the past few years been held at the Cathedral. We would welcome your views and thoughts regarding suitable venues, timing, theme or any offers of assistance in the planning of the mass?

Please email, call or write with your suggestions.

Our first meeting for Religious Orders aligned to the Archdiocese for safeguarding purposes took place recently.

It was an opportunity to meet and discuss the safeguarding issues that impact on religious life. We intend to meet regularly as we move forward together in developing and enhancing safe working practice.

Who's who — Commission

Bernie Brown	- Chairperson
Fr Tom Neylon	- Trustee
Dr Felicity Knight	- Retired Consultant Paediatrician
Kath Pitt	- Nugent Care
Robert Lunan	- Nugent Care
Caroline O'Brien	- Merseyside Police
Michelle Dean	- Merseyside Probation
Nikki Sofia	- Merseyside Probation
Martin Sandeman	- Catholic Blind Institute
Ann Hennessey	- Parish Representative
David Clarke	- Nugent Care
Julie Knowles	- Alder Hey Hospital
Rev John Gorman	—Clergy Representative

Please keep in touch for advice, support or any queries

Contact details:

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Croxtheth Drive
Sefton Park
Liverpool
L17 1AA

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safeguarding@rcaol.co.uk
d.bill@rcaol.co.uk
j.lynch@rcaol.co.uk
s.cawley@rcaol.co.uk
m.cole@rcaol.co.uk

Telephone: 0151 522 1043

Fax: 0151 522 1089

Website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Please click on Commissions and follow link to Safeguarding

NSPCC Statistics

- ◇ Police recorded over 23,000 sex offences against children aged 18 years in England & Wales between April 2011 and March 2013.
- ◇ More than one in three children (34 %) who experienced contact sexual abuse by an adult does not tell anyone about it.
Four out of five children (82.7%) who experienced contact sexual abuse from a peer did not tell anyone about it.
- ◇ In 2012/2013, Childline counsellors dealt with 1.4 million contacts from children about various problems including bullying, sexual abuse, violence and mental health issues.
- ◇ On average every week in the UK at least one child is killed at the hands of another person.
- ◇ Children under one are more at risk of being killed at the hands of another person than any other age group in England & Wales.
- ◇ In 2012/2013 NSPCC helpline advisors responded to nearly 51,000 contacts from adults concerned about a child. More than half of these were serious enough to warrant a referral to local police or children's services for further investigations.
- ◇ Neglect is the most common reason for a child to be the subject of a child protection plan or on a child Protection register in the UK.
- ◇ Neglect was a factor in 60% of the 139 serious case reviews (where a child died or was seriously injured) In England between 2009/2011.
- ◇ Between 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 nearly 26 million child abuse images were confiscated by the police.
- ◇ There are 29,837 offenders on the Sex Offenders Register for sexual offences against children.
- ◇ 1 in 20 children in the UK have been sexually abused.
- ◇ Police forces in England & Wales recorded over 28,000 cases of children running away from care in 2012.

Foster Care

With local authorities experiencing a shortage of foster carers Nugent Care have launched a 'New Lives' fostering service. The office is based in Liverpool and aims to help find foster carers for children who often have to wait a long time for suitable placements.

For further details contact:

New Lives Fostering Service, 4th Floor, 151 Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH

Telephone: 0151 229 5280

Email: fosteringservice@nugentcare.org

Do what you can!

*Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.*

