



Newsbrief...

SPRING 2009

News, updates and resources in Education, Safeguarding Trust and Children's Ministry

New resource now available...



Safeguarding Trust 2008 Worker's extract of parts 5-8

The 2008 Edition of Safeguarding Trust is almost one year old and it is hoped that everyone is now familiar with the new text.

Workers should be provided with Parts 5-8 of Safeguarding Trust at induction training. However some parishes have decided that as well as supplying **new** workers with Parts 5-8, **all** workers should be provided with these Parts from the New Edition to ensure that everyone working with children in the parish is familiar with the current child protection procedures and guidelines.

Following distribution of the 2008 edition last year, the Board of Education received feedback from many parishes requesting Parts 5 - 8 to be produced in a separate format. It was indicated that it would be as cost and resource effective for parishes to buy these as it would for them to photocopy these sections for distribution to workers.

Some parishes have been content to photocopy these Parts for their workers, but in response to the



feedback received, Parts 5 - 8 of Safeguarding Trust have now been produced in a separate booklet. The booklets are exact extracts from the 2008 Edition of Safeguarding Trust and have the same layout and colour coding as the full Edition.

These booklets are available from the Good Book Shop and cost £3.50 each.

The Good Book Shop now also has copies of the full edition of Safeguarding Trust, which may be bought or ordered from there and are priced at £12.00.



AccessNI News...

In December 2008 AccessNI advised that it is now meeting all of its service standards, including that for the delivery of 90% of enhanced disclosure certificates within 4 weeks of receipt of applications.

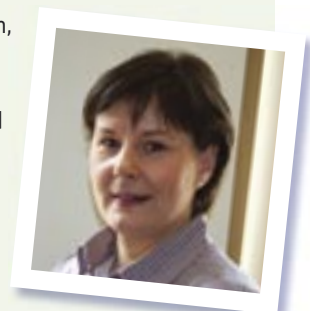
This is welcome news given that earlier in 2008 it was at times taking more than 12 weeks for an enhanced disclosure certificate to be delivered.

Parishes should still allow approximately 6-8 weeks for disclosure applications as all application forms have to be processed by Claire Geoghegan before submission to AccessNI. Claire then has to process the disclosure certificates, when she receives them from AccessNI, before forwarding these to parishes.

Claire has recently moved location and is now working within the Board of Education (NI). She is a very welcome addition to the staff team, both in the Board office and in Church House.

Claire can be contacted, Mon - Thurs 12.30pm - 3.30pm, at **028 9023 1202** or by email at: claire@diocoff-belfast.org
All AccessNI disclosure applications should be sent to:

Claire Geoghegan,
AccessNI
Co-ordinator
Church of Ireland
House, 61-67
Donegall Street
Belfast BT1 2QH



Claire Geoghegan,
AccessNI Co-ordinator

Safeguarding Trust News...

from the Child Protection Officer - Margaret Yarr



AccessNI Application Forms

- It is important that application forms are completed accurately **AND** in black ink as AccessNI will return all forms which have not been completed in black ink or those which have any relevant sections incorrectly completed. This means that all such forms will be returned to the incumbent therefore causing considerable delay in processing.
- Some forms have been submitted with Page 2 missing. AccessNI will not process any form which does not have all **9** pages. Application forms may now be photocopied in 2 sided format but all 9 pages **must** be included.
- Please do not staple application forms. The system which AccessNI uses requires that pages are not stapled together.
- Correcting fluid must NOT be used on any part of the form.
- All application forms must be accompanied by a Church of Ireland Validation Form.
- Page 4 - It is a requirement for a **full five year address history** with complete dates and post codes to be included on this page otherwise AccessNI will return the application form.
- On Page 7 of the Disclosure Application form in the section '**Position applied for**' it is important to indicate clearly that the position involves direct work with children. If it is not completely clear that the position involves direct work with children, some appropriate

information may not be disclosed by AccessNI. Simply stating something like 'Sunshine Club Leader' will not indicate to AccessNI that the post involves direct work with children. 'Creche Leader', 'Sunday School Teacher', 'Youth Group Worker' etc are the sort of terms required.

- On Page 7 in the section '**Organisation Name**', the name of the parish and diocese should be completed. **Nothing** else on this page should be ticked or completed.
- Page 9 - 'Signature of Registered Person' - please leave blank as **Claire Geoghegan** is the '**Registered Person**' and she will sign the form.

A sample application form **AND** a guide to completing an application form can be viewed and / or downloaded from the Church of Ireland website.

Some people have reported difficulty in 'finding' this information on the website... **SO** - a step by step guide

1. Go to www.ireland.anglican.org/policy
2. On the left hand side of the page there is a list of headings highlighted in lilac
3. Click on **Policy Documents**
4. On the new page choose Safeguarding Trust (Northern Ireland) and click on 'click here'
5. On the next new page on the left hand side there is a list of headings highlighted in lilac - click on **AccessNI**
6. **ET VOILA!**

Please visit the website regularly as we plan to add new downloads and updates.



Margaret Yarr
Child Protection Officer

Panel Training

The CPO has provided training for new panel members and 'refreshed' some existing panel members in a series of training sessions.

The Derry sessions were held during November in the Derry Diocesan Office. Mrs Elizabeth Fielding, a member of the Diocesan Support Team, assisted the CPO with these sessions.

The Armagh sessions took place at the end of November and beginning of December in Church House, Armagh and Mr Leslie Johnston, a member of the Diocesan Support Team, assisted the CPO with these sessions.

Training in Connor and Down and Dromore Dioceses has taken place over six sessions in February and March. Two sessions were held in the offices of CMS Ireland, two in the Jethro Centre, Lurgan and two in St Patrick's parish hall in Broughshane.

All sessions were well attended, interactive and provided opportunities for discussion.

Panel Members

Would all incumbents please ensure that they have submitted the names, addresses and contact details for their parish panel members to the Board of Education NI.



Gateway Teams...

Following DHSSPS inspections of statutory Child Protection Services in Northern Ireland in 2004 and 2005, the Government's response was to direct Health Trusts to implement a single, regional Assessment Framework from April 2007; this is UNOCINI (Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland).

They also directed the establishment of Gateway Teams from April 2008, to

improve consistency. Gateway Teams replace the previous arrangements for making referrals to Social Services in relation to all Family and Childcare matters.

All reports of a child protection nature should be made to the local Gateway Team.

The following is a list of all the Gateway Teams in Northern Ireland and contact

details for each of them. Also included are contact numbers for 'Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Services' or 'Emergency Duty Teams'.

THIS LIST SHOULD BE ADDED TO YOUR COPY OF THE 2008 EDITION OF SAFEGUARDING TRUST. IT REPLACES THE SECTIONS HEALTH TRUSTS AND EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS NUMBERS IN PART 9.5.

Northern Trust

The Northern Trust has 3 Gateway Teams which cover 3 sectors: Northern, Central and South Eastern.

There is a single phone number to contact the Gateway Service - **0300 1234 333**. This will give the caller a list of options so that the appropriate team can be contacted.

Additionally each team has its own individual number.

Northern Sector (covering Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Portrush and Coleraine)
Coleraine Child Care Team
7a Castlerock Road, Coleraine BT51 3HP
Email: northern.gateway@northerntrust.hscni.net
Tel: 028 7032 5462

Central Sector (covering Ballymena, Magherafelt and Cookstown)
Unit 5A, Toome Business park
Hillhead Road, Toomebridge BT41 3SF
Email: central.gateway@northerntrust.hscni.net
Tel: 028 7965 1020

South Eastern Sector (covering Antrim, Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey and Larne)
The Beeches, 76 Avondale Drive
Ballyclare BT39 9DB
Email: southeastern.gateway@northerntrust.hscni.net
Tel: 028 9334 0165

The Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service's number is 028 9446 8833

Southern Trust

The Southern Trust has 3 Gateway Teams:

Gateway Team
Brownlow Health and Social Services
1 Legahory Centre, Craigavon BT65 5BE
Tel: 028 3834 3011

The Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service's number is 028 3833 4444

Gateway Team
E Floor, South Tyrone Hospital
Carland Road, Dungannon BT71 4AU
Tel: 028 8772 3101

The Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service's number is 028 8772 3101

Gateway Team
Dromolane House, Dromolane Road
Newry BT35 8AP
Tel: 028 3082 5000

The Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service's number is 028 3083 5000

South-Eastern Trust

The South-Eastern Trust has 3 Gateway Teams:

Stewartstown Road health Centre
(covers Dunmurry and Greater Lisburn)
212 Stewartstown Road
Dunmurry BT17 0FB
Tel: 028 9060 2705

Market Street
(covers Newcastle and Downpatrick)
81 Market Street, Downpatrick BT30 6LZ
Tel: 028 4461 3511

North Down

(covers Bangor, Ards and Peninsula Areas)
Family Resource Centre
James Street, Newtownards BT23 4DY
Tel: 028 9181 8518

The Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service's number is 028 9056 5444

Western Trust

The Western Trust has 3 Gateway Teams:

Gateway Team
Community Services Department
2 Coleshill Road, Enniskillen BT74 7HG
Tel: 028 6634 4037

Gateway team
Community Services department
Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital
Omagh BT79 0NS
Tel: 028 8283 5043

Gateway team
Whitehill, 106 Irish Street
Waterside, Londonderry BT47 2ND
Tel: 028 7131 4090

The Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service's number is 028 7134 5171

Belfast Trust

The Belfast Trust has 4 Gateway Teams:

All 4 Gateway teams are located at
414 Ormeau Road, Belfast
Tel: 028 9050 7000

The Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service's number is 028 9056 5444

Report for General Synod Board of Education meeting 9th March 2009

2008 saw a most significant period of united activity for the Protestant churches in education in NI.

There was a good news story as the Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC) led a public campaign to secure the **transferor governor rights** on school boards of governors. Together we were able to reverse a policy proposal by the Dept of Education which would have removed transferors from many school boards. It was an important example of the effectiveness of political lobbying by the C of I, Presbyterian and Methodist churches with the new devolved Assembly. It highlighted the role of local political parties in influencing educational policy setting.

Over the last few years the transferor churches have mostly observed and reflected on the developments around the **11+ dilemma**. The position adopted by the NI Board of Education supports the view of the TRC which is that reform of the arrangements for transfer to post-primary education is necessary and that it should be possible to devise a system of transfer at 11 without the need for a high stakes test. As the years of debate have gone on the various protagonists pro and anti selection have become entrenched in their positions.

In Nov last year the 4 churches together made a public intervention and called for all parties to stand back, and agree to an interim arrangement so that time could be created to look at possible options including focussing on age 14 as a time for key pathway decisions. Disappointingly no political agreement was possible and the minister

issued guidelines which are not legally binding on schools. We now inhabit an uncertain, untried and unregulated world of transfer. The losers here are year 6 pupils who most likely face a bewildering range of independent entrance tests to grammar schools this autumn.

Another current challenge is the proposal to establish a **support body for the controlled schools** in the future. This seems a sensible and necessary development to find a champion for these schools. However the matter has become bogged down in the dilemma of where does ownership of these publicly owned schools lie in future? In ESA or in another body? For the transferor churches - how do we ensure transferors' rights to oversee schools that we established are respected? This is important- it relates to protection of Christian ethos and securing an equitable representational role for transferors in the future.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups legislation together with a **new Vetting and Barring Scheme** is commencing in October this year. It will require all who work closely with children and vulnerable adults in our church's ministry to register with a new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The Board of Education NI is currently being advised by the DHSSPS on procedures for implementing the Vetting and Barring Scheme in the Church of Ireland. (*Update - the DHSSPS announced on 19th March 2009 that individual applications for Scheme registration will not begin until 2010*)

This will create a new arena of work with challenges for resources in a time



Revd. Ian Ellis, Secretary to Board of Education NI & Secretary to Transferor Representatives' Council

of limited resources. The part of this legislation referring to vulnerable adults is new for churches and we will require us to scope the range of regulated activities currently undertaken in parishes. This new work will require additional checking, new guidelines, and training.

May I pay tribute to our CPOs Margaret and Renee for the professional support they have given to parishes and dioceses and say how invaluable they have been to implementing Safeguarding Trust. Margaret in NI has placed a focus on training, designing a new programme and delivered panel training in almost every northern diocese. She is also developing a set of local trainers to train parish workers.

Lastly thanks to Jennifer Byrne who has so ably carried much of the work that John McCullagh would have undertaken for the General Synod Board.

Revd. IW Ellis



Contacts:

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Tel: 028 9023 1202 Fax: 028 9023 7802

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Child Protection Officer: **Margaret Yarr** Email: cponi@ireland.anglican.org
AccessNI co-ordinator: **Claire Geoghegan** Email: claire@diocoff-belfast.org



Church of Ireland
Board of Education (NI)