



Bishops' Conference of Scotland
NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

**Awareness & Safety
in our Catholic
Communities**

Issue 2
April 2007

Jackie McCaig
National
Co-ordinator



I am happy to introduce the second edition of our newsletter 'Awareness & Safety in our Catholic Communities'.

This year could be quite a significant one for the Church in Scotland given that we will be launching the new 'Awareness & Safety in our Catholic Communities' manual. It is clear that all the dioceses, parishes, religious congregations and associated organisations see the development of national policies for the protection of children and vulnerable adults as a major part of the message. That is to be welcomed and expected.

I'm sure few of us had any notion of the investment the Church was going to have to make in Child Protection. Little did we realise the impact that child protection was going to have in the Church community; little were we aware that there would be a constant flow of guidelines and legislation from Church and State and little did we know of the number of people like yourselves who required to be recruited and trained; and we could not have imagined there would be such an enormous amount of goodwill and acceptance from the vast majority of Church people.

It is the responsibility of the whole Church and everyone involved in it.

Appreciative thanks to everyone involved for all the time, commitment, effort and energy you give every day.

Jackie McCaig
National Co-ordinator

**Awareness and Safety in
Our Catholic Communities**

You may remember that the first 4 sections of the document were approved by the Bishops in November 2006. Section 5 was recently approved at the Spring 2007 meeting of the Bishops' Conference. This section focuses on Recognising and Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse. The first 5 sections of this fully comprehensive document covering aspects of protection issues and good working practice will be distributed in loose leaf format in order that as the remaining sections are approved they can be easily slotted in. A section being developed as a result of the growing recognition that vulnerable adults as well as children need safeguarding is making good progress.

Jackie McCaig
National Co-ordinator

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Legislation Update | 2 |
| Diocese of Dunkeld | 2 |
| Parish Audit | 2 |
| Diocese of Motherwell | 3 |
| Diocese of Paisley | 3 |
| Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh | 4 |
| Diocese of Galloway | 5 |
| Diocese of Aberdeen | 6 |
| Diocese of Argyll & The Isles | 6 |
| Conference of Religious | 7 |
| Useful Contacts | 8 |

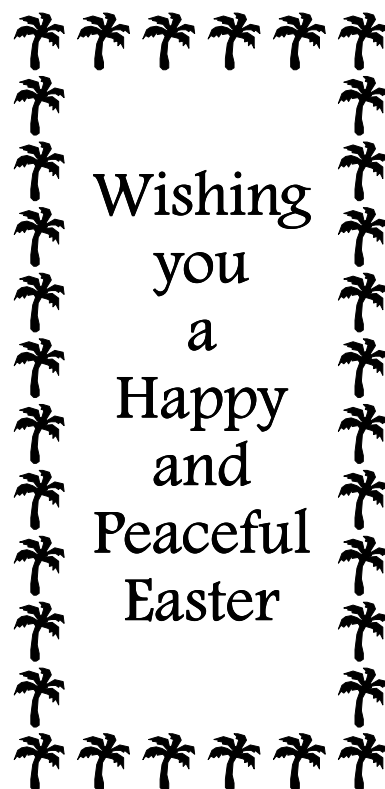
Parish Co-ordinators

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has agreed that all parishes are required to have a Parish Co-ordinator who has been appointed in accordance with the Church's selection and recruitment process. This must include a 'Disclosure Check'.

The main purpose of the post is to support the Parish Priest to ensure that all policies approved by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland are effectively and appropriately implemented in the Parish.

The names of all Parish Co-ordinators and the Parishes they represent should be forwarded to the appropriate designated person within the Diocese.

Jackie McCaig
National Co-ordinator



Wishing
you
a
Happy
and
Peaceful
Easter

**Legislation Update**

The new legislation in respect of the protection of vulnerable groups has currently been undergoing parliamentary scrutiny.

The Vulnerable Groups Bill:-

- Establishes two lists:-
 - **one of people unsuitable to work with children;**
 - **and the other of people unsuitable to work with protected adults.**

- At present there is no list of people unsuitable to work with protected adults.

- Replaces the current system with what it refers to as “the Scheme”. Paid staff and volunteers who work with children or protected adults will be able to request a Disclosure Check and will, thereby, become “Members” of the Scheme.

- Provides for the Disclosure Records held by Disclosure Scotland to be updated on an ongoing basis.

Jackie McCaig
National Co-ordinator

Notes from the Diocese of Dunkeld

Since formation of the Child Protection Team a foundation has been built through inputs from Tayside Police, local Social Work, the Children’s Commissioner with Tayside Health Board as well as the National Co-ordinator for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

A seminar was held on **European Internet Safety Day** in February and participants were drawn from the statutory agencies across the Diocese, including police, health, education and social work personnel.

Colin Turner from The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre delivered an account of its work across the UK internationally through its links to tackle child sex abuse wherever and whenever it happens. Part of the strategy for achieving this is by providing Internet safety [advice for parents and carers](#) and delivering a virtual police station to report abuse on the Internet. The activity of this government organisation is not generally known to people and the seminar welcomed the intimation that CEOP were to roll out a schools programme in Scotland in Spring 2007.

The primary purpose of the seminar was to bring Clergy and Parish Co-ordinators up to date and Father Brendan O’Callaghan SJ from Heythrop College, University of London presented Theological perspectives in Child Protection. These are challenging issues and it is appropriate that we rise to the challenges presented by difficult or sensitive aspects.

Mrs Jackie McCaig brought the seminar up to date in relation to new developments. This focused on legislation to protect Vulnerable Adults progressing through the Scottish Parliament.

This was a unique occasion when critical aspects of protecting those who are at risk in the community. Those who were unable to attend will be disappointed at missing the challenging aspects of differing but complementary issues.

A number of school teachers have been trained in the Diocese and their expertise will be invaluable in cascading the necessary training in Parishes. **The next Diocesan Training Session is to be held in St John’s Church Hall Perth at 7pm on Thursday 26th April 2007** which will include professional presentations by Mr Douglas Gray and Mrs Jackie McCaig, National Co-ordinator.

Bill Spence
Adviser to the Bishop

**Audit of Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Practice
to all Parish Priests and Parish Co-ordinators**

**In order to ensure effective implementation of policies, an annual audit of practice across all parishes is required.
A reminder that all parish audits should by now have been returned to the dioceses.**

Jackie McCaig, National Co-ordinator



Notes from the Diocese of Motherwell

Several Parish Co-ordinators have become Counter-Signatories and are generously travelling around the Diocese enabling volunteers to complete Enhanced Disclosures.

The Diocese is pleased to report that 99% of our priests have now completed Enhanced Disclosures. The demand for new volunteers who are registering with the Diocese and therefore requiring Disclosures continues. A new database has been developed to assist with the process and meet with demand.

I have been appointed as the ***Bishops' Adviser for Child Protection*** in the Diocese of Motherwell. I have been the Training Co-ordinator for Child Protection since November 2000. My background includes 18 years in teaching and my "other" full time job is the Manager of the largest counselling service in Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS.

Following the approval of Bishop Devine at the Diocesan Team Meeting in December 2006, all members of the SVDP are completing Enhanced Disclosure Applications through the Diocese. A significant number have already been processed and the Diocesan team welcomes the opportunity to work more closely with members of the SVDP in our parish communities.

A day for those who are involved in supporting vulnerable adults in our Diocese is being held in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre on 12th May 2007.

The Diocese is in the process of appointing a new ***Training Co-ordinator***. This will be a paid 20 hour post and it is hoped that this will lead to the development of a Diocesan Training Team.

Tina Campbell
Adviser to the Bishop

Notes from the Diocese of Paisley

In November 2006 the Diocese began to offer training sessions for Parish Priests and Parish Co-ordinators to consider their changing roles in the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults in our parish communities. These sessions were co-presented by Jackie McCaig and myself (Diocesan Adviser).

Parish Priests and Parish Co-ordinators had previously been sent a copy of the role of the Parish Co-ordinator, from Section 2 of "Awareness and Safety". They were invited to discuss this before coming to the training session and to bring with them ideas on how this would best work, possible pitfalls and any concerns that they had.

During the first evening, Jackie McCaig gave an overview of the role of the National Office, the progress that has been made in the last year and a half since she took up the post of National Co-ordinator and the role of the Diocesan Adviser. Much of this information was not new to the Priests present since Jackie had had the opportunity to speak to them just after she started her job, but this was the first opportunity she had to speak to the Parish Co-ordinators.

There followed a presentation/discussion on the role of the Parish Co-ordinator with the underlying principle that they are there to support the Parish Priest in ensuring that all policies adopted by the Dioceses following approval by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults are effectively and appropriately implemented in the parish.

On the second evening the discussion centred on Recognising and Responding to Allegations/Concerns of Abuse. This was an opportunity to update those present on the necessary procedures to follow if there is an allegation or concern about abuse and to present Section 5 of "Awareness and Safety".

This training programme is ongoing and further topics will either come from National Policy making or from the parishes. The Parish Co-ordinators will be brought together at least once a year, at deanery level, to discuss their experiences and to share good practice.

Christine Riddoch
Adviser to the Bishop



Notes from the Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh

Working with Vulnerable Adults

**Held in St. Mary's Cathedral
On 24th February 2007**

Following on the successful gathering "we all come through the same door" in Paisley last September, the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh decided we wished to present the same message locally.

Those who did attend found the day thought provoking and very worthwhile. The scenarios used were real issues which had been experienced by Eucharistic Ministers in the Archdiocese, and many of those present could relate similar experiences.

Jackie McCaig gave input on the legal situation as it stands at present and was able to answer many of the issues troubling parish visitors.

All parishes were invited to send two representatives to a session on 24 February 2007 in St Mary's Cathedral Hall. Numbers were disappointing as only about 30 people attended. Many parishes at a distance from Edinburgh said it was difficult for working parents and carers to give up a Saturday morning, especially if considerable travelling time was involved.

After the summer holidays we will present the materials at a number of locations throughout the Archdiocese.

Maureen McEvoy
Co-ordinator, Social Care

Training for Trainers

A Training for Trainers course was held on 20 January 2007 in St Mary's Cathedral Hall Edinburgh which was led by Jackie McCaig and Anne McAlister. 50% of our Archdiocesan Trainers attended and hopefully the other 50% of our trainers will be able to attend the other Training for Trainers courses which we intended to hold over the next few months. Information will be sent out from the office once dates and venues have been decided.

New trainers are always needed and welcomed so please advise details of any suitable candidates to the Archdiocesan office and you will be informed of a Training for Trainers opportunity as soon as possible.

Awareness Training

You will be pleased to hear that a Diocesan Trainer, details below, is now available to deliver training to those parishes who do not have the resource to do the training themselves.

Brian MacNeil **Tel: 07718898658**

Parishes should ensure that all volunteers receive the appropriate training by attending awareness session training. Please contact the office or Brian on the above number if you require training to be done in your parish. We would ask that you provide us with:

- ✦ **a couple of proposed dates giving 4 weeks notice;**
- ✦ **the time and venue for the training session;**
- ✦ **a contact name and telephone number for accessing the venue;**
- ✦ **the number of volunteers who require training to allow us to provide the resources required.**

A normal training session will last approximately two hours.

Parishes who have their own trainers should advise the office of training dates, time and venues and whether they have available places for volunteers to come along from other parishes in the Deanery. Letters will be sent out from the office advising other parishes in the Deanery of the training to be held. Please contact the office to obtain any resources which you may require.

Parish Co-ordinator Support Group Sessions

In February various support group sessions were held throughout the Archdiocese. Unfortunately we had a very poor attendance at some of our meetings even though one of the issues that came out of the Annual Audit last year was that Parish Co-ordinators were missing having these support group sessions. Those who attended found the meetings a valuable means of support for the work they are doing in their parishes and it would be encouraging if all Parish Co-ordinators were able to find the time to come along to take advantage of this useful source of support.

The next meetings will be held in June and information will be sent to you regarding time and venues nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Liz Carty
Team Leader, Parish Support Service



Notes from SPRED in the Diocese of Galloway

SPREP supports, encourages and enables the spiritual and personal development of people with special needs through a programme which offers: friendship, inclusion and belonging, working towards full inclusion in parish and community life. The SPRED method works on a 1:1 basis of volunteer and 'friend' (a person with learning difficulties) forming small groups. In Galloway diocese presently our groups all involve people over 16 years. Three times a year volunteers attend a review or ongoing training sessions. For our January meeting we invited Jackie McCaig to outline for us the present Church guidelines regarding our work with Vulnerable Adults and to review with us our own guidelines and procedures. It was an enlightening evening, well attended, both informative and affirming of good practice.

* * * * *
 * *"It was an* *
 * *enlightening* *
 * *evening, well* *
 * *attended,* *
 * *both* *
 * *informative* *
 * *and affirming* *
 * *of good* *
 * *practice."* *
 * * * * *

Our mission statement says, 'In SPRED we believe that every person needs an environment of openness, acceptance, love and security within which to develop their full potential...We seek at all times, in our dealings, in behaviour, approach and language to be age-appropriate, respectful of the life experience of each person...' First and foremost, therefore, is our concern for the well being, respect and dignity of the people who take part in SPRED. In all we do we would hope to reflect good Christian values and attitudes.

We began the evening by presenting a scenario featuring a conversation which could arise within a SPRED session. Issues were raised, questions arose, which enabled us to think widely. Life as we all know is not always straight forward. By interspersing periods of reflection volunteers were able to discuss and identify their own feelings and concerns and go on to ask the question, 'What would you do?'

This led easily into Jackie's presentation covering the awareness and safety of vulnerable adults in our Catholic communities and current procedures for addressing concerns or how to respond to a disclosure of possible abuse as outlined in the churches 'Welcome Guide'. Against this background we checked out our own practices and procedures. There was real energy in the room and very positive responses to the issues raised. It was a very helpful and worthwhile training evening which both informed, reassured and affirmed us.

We are together a Church community which is called by God to welcome the stranger, uphold the widow and orphan, to be open handed and give to the poor, to have compassion for the downtrodden, to lift the broken hearted, to have a preferential option for the poor. This will inevitably lead us into areas of 'vulnerability', at times our own, as well as those we reach out to include. Let us not be afraid in our various ministries but in all ways carry in our hearts, the mind and heart of Jesus, who had compassion for all, who reached out and touched those who came to him in every kind of need. Let us have the utmost respect for every person who is in any way entrusted to our care.

Sister Kathleen Hogg
Director of SPRED,
Diocese of Galloway



Notes from the Diocese of Aberdeen

TRAINING

The cascading training is being rolled out across Grampian, throughout the Highlands and across the sea to the Orkneys and Shetlands.

Many thanks to Sally Reid for her tireless work. Teachers who retire are never to be found standing still.

*Helen Munro
Adviser to the Bishop*

MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTRE

Do you know that the Rev Dr Colin Stewart is the source of a most excellent mountain outdoor centre in the village of Tomintoul?

It is a diocesan residential centre, and is available for booking through e-mail i.e. SMCTtoul@aol.com or **St Michael's Centre Main Street, Tomintoul.**

Notes from the Diocese of Argyll & The Isles



On Saturday 10th March, an afternoon of training was held for the diocese of Argyll and The Isles in Fort William. **'Working with Vulnerable Adults'** was led by Jackie McCaig. Priests and volunteers found the training informative and valuable in their roles. It was particularly good that everyone felt able to share their experiences and also had the opportunity to speak and meet with similar people in other parishes. It is hoped that further sessions will be held annually.

*Anne Marie Campbell
Diocesan Team Member*

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU WITH ANY IDEAS FOR FUTURE ARTICLES OR ANY ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE RAISED. PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLE (along with photograph) to:

mstein@nopcva.org - 0141 332 7177



Conference of Religious in Scotland



Awareness Session for “Link Persons” of all Religious Congregations working in Scot- land.

St Mungo’s Parish Hall,

A very full and intensive all-day session was organised by the National Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, and Mrs Jackie McCaig, appointed National Co-ordinator in April 2005, was the main presenter. There was a very good representation from the Religious Congregations working in Scotland.

A draft Audit Document was looked at by the group and various reservations were expressed (these will form part of the feedback that the link persons will seek from their teams). Finally, it was agreed that a further meeting of the link persons would be desirable in the autumn.

All in all, I think it was a very useful and informative day, and gives hope that a strong one-church approach will apply across the whole of Scotland in regard to the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. I think the day showed it is not only the Religious of Scotland who have to come on board in all aspects of this important issue. The National Office is also on a sharp learning curve in regard to the multifarious nature and forms of religious life.

It is good to know that we are committed to working together, and that Jackie McCaig is available at the end of a phone for advice and clarification. Well done.

“it was a
very
useful and
informative
day”

Everyone received a draft copy of the new policy document from the Bishops’ Conference: **“Awareness and Safety in our Catholic Communities”** and the **“Welcome Guide”**. Jackie guided the gathering through Sections 1- 4 which have already been approved. There was also a session in which link persons could flag up their burning issues. After lunch, Dave McCann spoke about the process for obtaining Disclosure checks, and established that Sister Helen Darragh is now approved as a co-signatory. The role of the “link person” was discussed, and it became clear that in this regard, as other issues, consistency of terminology and clarification of roles north and south of the border would greatly assist our endeavours. Jackie then gave an overview of Section 5 of the policy document, which at the time was awaiting final approval by the Bishops’ Conference.

Fr Jim McGarry, SDB



USEFUL CONTACTS

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh

Gillis Centre
100 Strathearn Road
EDINBURGH
EH9 1BB

Tel No; 0131 623 8943
Fax No; 0131 623 8950
E-mail; childprotect@staned.org.uk

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Diocese of Argyll & The Isles

Bishop's House
Esplanade
OBAN
PA34 5AB

Tel No; 01631 567 436
Fax No; 01631 564 986
E-mail; rcd.argyll@btconnect.com

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Diocese of Galloway

Diocesan Office
8 Corsehill Road
AYR
KA7 2ST

Tel No; 01292 266 750
Fax No; 01292 289 888
E-mail; administration@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Diocese of Motherwell

Diocesan Centre
Coursington Road
MOTHERWELL
ML1 1PP

Tel No; 01698 269 114/5
Fax No; 01698 275 630
E-mail; admin@rcdom.org.uk

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Diocese of Aberdeen

Diocesan Centre
3 Queen's Cross
ABERDEEN
AB15 1XU

Tel No; 01224 319 154
Fax No; 01224 325 570
E-mail; 1administrator.rcdioceseofaberdeen@dsl.pipex.com

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Diocese of Dunkeld

Diocesan Centre
24 - 28 Lawside Road
DUNDEE
DD3 6XY

Tel No; 01382 225 453
Fax No; 01382 204 585
E-mail; personnel@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
chancellor@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Archdiocese of Glasgow

Diocesan Centre
196 Clyde Street
GLASGOW
G1 4JY

Tel No; 0141 226 5898
Fax No; 0141 225 2600
E-mail; VG@rcag.org.uk/
PersonnelOffice@rcag.org.uk

The Diocesan Child Protection Adviser
Diocese of Paisley

Diocesan Centre
Cathedral Precincts
Incle Street
PAISLEY
PA1 1HR

Tel No; 0141 847 6130
Fax No; 1041 847 6140
E-mail; childprotectionAdviser@ntlworld.com

If writing to the National Co-ordinator at the National Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, 274 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JR and/or Diocesan Advisers, please mark the envelope 'Private & Confidential'