

## Feedback

The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora value feedback from members of the clergy, staff, volunteers, parents, young people and children on the Safeguarding Children and Young People Diocesan Policy.

**Kevin Duffy,**  
**Director of Safeguarding,**  
**Galway Diocesan Pastoral Centre,**  
**Newtownsmith, Galway.**  
**087-6141736**



### **Safeguarding Children Office**

Diocesan Pastoral Centre,  
 Newtownsmith, Galway.

**Phone : 091-575051**



## *Diocesan Newsletter 2013*

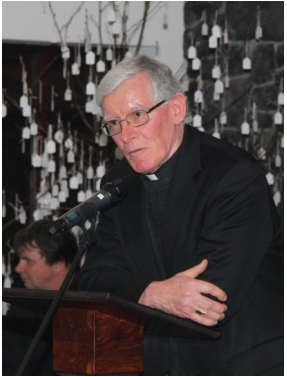
### **Diocesan Child Safeguarding Prayer**

*God, our Father,  
 in honouring our baptismal call  
 to nurture the young,  
 we thank you for the gift of life,  
 especially in your children.  
 May we always treasure your Image in them.*

*Bless all who work with children.  
 Guide us in our desire  
 to establish best practice  
 in our parish communities,  
 so that young & old may  
 be a reflection of your loving care.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## From Bishop Drennan's Desk



This has been an important year for all of us working for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the diocese. In January we had an audit of our Child Safeguarding structures by the National Board. The findings that were published in April gave a very positive assessment of all that we have in place.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to each of you because it was your work that was assessed and praised. I want to assure you, and the audit confirms this, that every input is crucial. Please keep up the excellent work. We need and value it.

It will take time to restore the trust in the Church that was damaged by negative publicity over several years. The findings of the audit give us confidence that this trust can be rebuilt, indeed is being rebuilt. Everyone benefits when there is trust in institutions. Our efforts at fostering trust are a gift to our country. May the Lord bless us in all we do.

## Useful Websites

[www.galwaydiocese.ie/child-protection](http://www.galwaydiocese.ie/child-protection)

[www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

[www.hse.ie/go/childrenfirst](http://www.hse.ie/go/childrenfirst)



## Useful Contact Details

### Diocesan Safeguarding Children Office

**Phone:** 091-575051

**Email:** [galwaydiocesecpo@eircom.net](mailto:galwaydiocesecpo@eircom.net)

### Director of Safeguarding

**Phone:** 091-565066

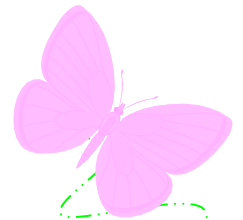
087-6141736

**Email:** [kduffy.cpo@galwaydiocese.ie](mailto:kduffy.cpo@galwaydiocese.ie)

### Western Diocese Vetting Office

**Phone:** 091-575051

**Email:** [wpvs@eircom.net](mailto:wpvs@eircom.net)



## Diocesan Liaison Persons

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to report an allegation of child abuse please contact one of our Diocesan Liaison Persons who are responsible for receiving/managing concerns and complaints relating to safeguarding children that involve church personnel. *Their names and contact details are as follows:*



**Mrs. Eileen Kelly**

Diocesan Pastoral Centre

**085-1112660**

**Mr. Kevin Duffy (Deputy)**

Diocesan Pastoral Centre

**085-7748324**



If you wish to report directly to the statutory authorities please contact either your local H.S.E Duty Social Worker at

**Galway: 091-546370/546366**

**Clare: 065-6863907**

**Mayo: 094 90 42284/42283**

or An Garda Síochána at 1800 666111, through the emergency no. 999 or your local Garda station.

## From the Director of Safeguarding: Mr. Kevin Duffy

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC) has just completed an Audit of our Diocese, a copy of which is on our website. There were a number of recommendations in the report and these are being worked on at present, and some have already been implemented.

The audit reported that Safeguarding Practice was good in the Diocese and praised all those involved, the Bishop and Priests for their leadership, and all the volunteers for their work in the Parishes. The various committees were also praised for their on-going good work.

The audit team stated *“That they would wish to reflect the significant good work that is taking place in relation to all aspects of safeguarding and preventing harm to children and wish to acknowledge all personnel, - lay, clergy, paid and volunteer for their contribution to safeguarding practice in Galway Diocese”*

I wish to thank Bishop Martin and all the Priests of the Diocese, the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee, the Local Parish Safeguarding Representatives, the trainers and the trained, the Diocesan Advisory Panel, the Designated Liaison Person & the Diocesan Safeguarding Office Administrator.

My appreciation also goes to the National Office for Safeguarding Children, the HSE, the Gardai, as well as the countless people in each parish who have worked hard to reach these high standards.

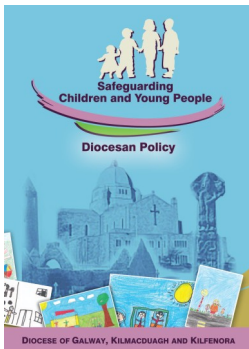
## Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

**Chairperson:** Mr. Martin Mulroy

**Secretary:** Mrs. Margaret Mc Loughlin

Fr. David Cribbin, Sr. Aileen Murphy

Ms. Mary O'Byrne & Mrs. Mary Smith



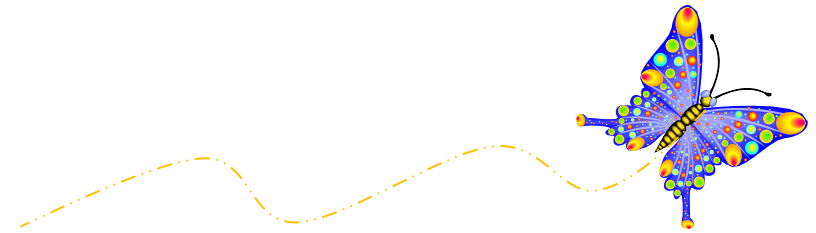
The committee welcomes the completed audit by NBSCCC and its recommendations. The committee will continue to work in conjunction with Bishop Martin and all relevant personnel, who are involved in safeguarding children, within the diocese.

The continuing implementation of the diocesan policy **'Safeguarding Children and Young People'** including training, and support for parishes is our objective. Addressing the recommendations of the audit is a priority of the committee for the coming year.



## Western Province Diocesan Vetting Service

In 2010, the 6 Dioceses in the West of Ireland took the initiative to establish a central Garda Vetting Service known as The Western Province Diocesan Vetting Service. This service has been operating effectively in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre under the administration of Ita O' Mahony. Its purpose is to ensure the smooth & efficient administration of Garda Vetting Forms.



To date all priests and employed personnel working with children and young people of the Galway Diocese have been vetted. It is recommended that all church personnel who have significant contact with children and young people in church related activities should acquire Garda Vetting. We are actively promoting this as best practice in the Galway Diocese.

Vetting forms are available to download on

[www.galwaydiocese.ie](http://www.galwaydiocese.ie)

# Local Safeguarding Representatives

Following receipt of the Parish Safeguarding Annual Audit forms 2012, we can reaffirm that **each Parish/Church has at least one fully trained local safeguarding representative.**

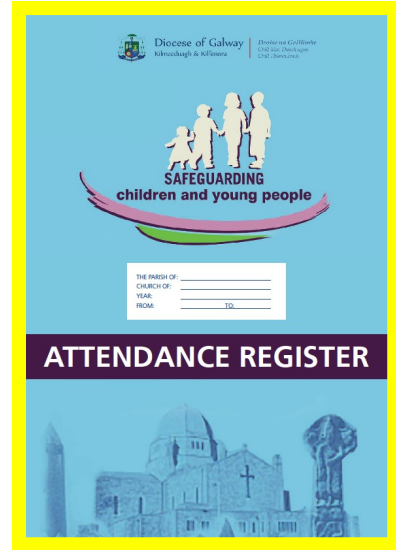
The role of the local safeguarding representative is to promote awareness of the need for safeguarding children and young people.



This person ensures that all parish activities are carried out in such a manner as to ensure the safety and well being of the children involved in parish activities. All Parish Representatives complete a 9 hour Keeping Safe HSE accredited training course.



# New publications available from the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Office



Our latest publications have now been distributed to all parishes and we hope that they will serve as a great asset to you in maintaining the diocesan child safeguarding standards. Please contact Ita on **091-575051** to order additional copies.



## Safeguarding Children & Young People Conference - 12th October 2013

We are pleased to announce our 4th annual conference will be held on **October 12th 2013** in the **Menlo Park Hotel**.

All priests and local safeguarding reps are invited to attend.

Registration begins at 9.30am and the format of the day will include a key-note speaker followed by a plenary session. Lunch will be provided at 1.30pm.

Any queries or questions regarding our Safeguarding Children Practices should be sent *in advance of the conference* to the office of Child Safeguarding.

All questions will be addressed on the day

Contact **Ita at the Safeguarding Children Office on 091-575051 before September 15th to reserve your place.**



## Training in Child Safeguarding Practice

Over the last year, a total of **56 people** from across the diocese attended the new Child Safeguarding training course redesigned by the National Board for Safeguarding Children.

During November 2012 and January 2013, two training sessions were facilitated by Fr. Michael Brennan & Sr. Aileen Murphy (*H.S.E & NBSCCC Accredited Keeping Safe Trainers*) in the Galway Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Those in attendance included child safeguarding representatives, parish workers & priests.

Our **next training** course is due to take place in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre during the month of **January 2014.**

**Please contact Ita on 091-575051 to reserve a place.**

