



SUMMER 2014

Diocese of Portsmouth

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE NEWSLETTER

PROTECTING ALL IN OUR CARE



Welcome to our SUMMER Bulletin..

The Safeguarding Team in Portsmouth are:

Angela McGrory - Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator Tel: 023 92 816396

Jane Green - Safeguarding Administrator (With responsibility for Parish Safeguarding Representative Recruitment & Induction) Tel: 023 92 816396

Soraya Ciccarone - PA to Safeguarding Coordinator & Diocesan Financial Secretary Tel: 023 92 816396/023 92 825430

The Diocesan Safeguarding Commission

Accountability

The Commission is accountable to the Bishop/Congregation Leader & Trustees of the Diocese/Religious Congregation.

Function

The Commission which meets bi-monthly has a regulatory, advisory & supportive role at strategic level in all matters relating to Child Protection in the Diocese, to include those religious congregations which are not affiliated to CoR (Conference of Religious).

Commission Members

The composition of the Commission satisfies the level of professional expertise laid down by Lord Nolan and the more recent Cumberlege Report:-

Dr Lorna Duggan (2000) - Chair of Commission & Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist in Developmental Disabilities/Clinical Director at Vista Healthcare

Dame Kate Burke MBE (2005) - Retired Social Worker/Project Manager Catholic Children's Society (Reading)

Paul O'Driscoll (2007) - Probation Manager

Rev David Sillince BA (2010) - Parish Priest at St Boniface, Southampton

Margaret Muncaster (2010) - Retired Senior Health Service Manager

Paul Neary (2010) - Retired Senior Probation Officer & Assistant to Episcopal Vicar for Vocations

Sheila Hughes (2013) - Diocesan Trustee

Fiona Matthews (2013) - Consultant Clinical Psychologist NHS Professionals

Canon Dominic Golding (1994) (2013) - Vicar General

Rev John Lee (2013) - Clergy Advisor for Safeguarding; Parish Priest at St Joseph's, Christchurch; Coordinating Pastor for Avon Stour Pastoral Area and Director for Chaplaincies in the new framework for Collaboration Right

Rev Dom Cuthbert Brogan OSB (2013) - Abbot of Farnborough and Commission Religious link

Hello Everyone

DBS Applications Error Rate – Well done to all of our parish safeguarding reps. The error rate and return of DBS applications have reduced considerably over the last 12 months which is great news! This means that the applications can be processed quickly and sent to the DBS saving your time and Jane's in chasing round for further information or paperwork!

We at the Safeguarding Office do really appreciate the fact that you are all very busy people with many other things to do and in some cases have not needed to pick up an application pack for many weeks/months and yet the applications are coming in with all the correct paperwork and all the relevant questions completed. You are all Stars!

DBS/EBulk/Re-Checks – As mentioned in previous newsletters CSAS as the registered body for our DBS checks have been looking into the Church using Ebulk (online checks) to process our DBS applications. The project is moving forward and we are considering as a Diocese being an 'Early adopter' of the scheme. Angela is attending a meeting on 5th August to further explore this, so we are hopeful for an update shortly. CSAS is hoping that within the next 2 years all Diocese in England and Wales will have adopted Ebulk for DBS checks. If we are to proceed as Early adopters we will be looking at rolling this out in the Autumn and looking for Pastoral Areas who are happy to start this process following training. If you are interested in being one of the first Parishes/Pastoral Areas to take this up then please let Soraya know and we will keep a record of those who have indicated they are willing to be involved from the start. **Once we have Ebulk up and running, it will be time to consider re-checks, however, we are not commencing these as yet.**

Audits - We will shortly be looking to commence our 'long anticipated' Parish Safeguarding Audits. As with Ebulk we would like to start this in a couple of Pastoral Area's. All parishes will be subject to this process which consists of an initial self-assessment, followed up by parish visits. The Audit itself will be available on SafeSys as a Report and the findings will be fed back to parish councils and the Trustees. These Reports will let the Safeguarding Commission and Diocesan Trustees know just where we are succeeding and where we need more support in order to be confident that we are Safeguarding all in our Parishes.

As always thank you all for the great work that you are doing to ensure the safety of all in our care.

**Best wishes for a great Summer
Angela & the Safeguarding Team**

Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service - www.csas.uk.net

National Catholic Safeguarding Commission - www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

PARISH TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

This notice has gone out to all Parishes, Parish Priests and Parish Office staff in a circular from Rev'd Dr Stephen Morgan (Financial Secretary and Secretary to the Trustees)

Our Insurers have written to us in response to enquiries about proposed parish transport arrangements, whereby the parish will organise volunteer drivers to give parishioners lifts to/from church or other events. They advise us that these arrangements give rise to significant risks, not only to the diocese but also to the individuals participating in those arrangements.

The difficulty is that if a volunteer organises the provision of transport to/from church or other event at the behest or with the agreement or involvement of the parish priest, parish pastoral council or parish group, the arrangements will be viewed as a service provided by the parish. That will have implications for the diocese in terms of liability for claims and there are various types of claim which could arise:-

Road Traffic Accidents Although any claims involving RTAs should fall to the motor insurer, it could be that a driver's insurance has lapsed or they have invalidated their cover by participating in the scheme, meaning that liability for any incidents would fall back to the diocesan Liability policy.

Personal Injury claims If drivers are assisting infirm parishioners from their homes into the car and then from the car into church, there could be manual handling incidents, slips, trips or falls. These may result in claims against the diocesan Liability policy.

Safeguarding incidents Such matters would fall to the diocesan Liability policy.

The organising of parish transport opens the diocese to a significant range of potential liabilities and, even if insurers were to agree to provide cover against all those liabilities, they would require robust risk assessments, document vetting and policies/procedures to be put in place and monitored, with which our insurers do not believe the parishes have the resources to be able to comply. Were a claim for damages to arise out of these arrangements and the parish had failed to comply with all requisite vetting and assessment procedures, the absence of an indemnity from the Liability insurers would result in the diocese and its trustees being unprotected against the consequent financial liabilities.

It is also worth making the point that, if a claim for damages was brought against the driver personally, that individual could be unprotected by insurance against any personal liabilities they might face.

In the circumstances, I am sorry to say, such arrangements must not be made under the auspices of the parish or any of its groups. This does not affect purely private arrangements involving one parishioner offering another parishioner a lift to/from church.