

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION'S SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE FOR ITS COMMUNITIES IN IRELAND

DATE OF MEETING: 10th JANUARY 2018

LOCATION: CHIGWELL CONVENT

Safeguarding Committee members: Sister Eileen McLoughlin, Committee Chair; Sister Angelo Roncalli (Kathleen) Corbett, Designated Liaison Person for the Congregation; Sister Margaret Dobbin; and Sister Marie Majella Galvin.

Secretary to the Committee: Bridget Cullen

MAIN POINTS

Introduction

1. Sister Eileen opened the meeting with a prayer. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the self-audit forms for the period, 1st November 2016 to 31st October 2017, completed by the Congregation's 4 communities in Ireland. The Committee would then decide, based on their review, what actions the communities should undertake over the next 12 months to improve their current safeguarding practices.

Review of Self-Audit Forms

2. **Belfast Community Self-Audit:** The Committee noted that:
 - The community consists of two Sisters only.
 - The Sisters do not minister with children in external organisations.
 - No non-Church groups working with children and young people use the community property.
 - Mass is not celebrated in the community house.
 - The community keeps a copy of the Congregation's Child Safeguarding Policy Statement for Ireland, with the necessary contact details, in a prominent position in the community house.

Summing up: The Committee agreed that, given the above-mentioned circumstances, it was not necessary to attribute any actions to the Belfast Community for the next 12 months. The community would be advised that they must make the Church Authority and the Congregation's Designated Liaison Person aware of any changes to their current circumstances which would have safeguarding implications.

3. **Cork Community Self -Audit:** The Committee noted that:
 - There are 28 Sisters resident in the community.
 - The community keeps a list of the priests who celebrate Mass in the convent chapel.
 - The community does not keep a register of non-church groups working with children and young people who use the community property.

- One Sister ministers with children in external organisations. The Sister in question visits schools periodically and the Community Leader has confirmed that she upholds the safeguarding requirements of the schools.
- Key personnel will attend the two-hour Safeguarding Information Course run by the National Board at some point in the next 12 months.
- The community's employees have seen the Congregation's Child Safeguarding Policy Statement for Ireland and have signed the agreement form.

Summing up: The Committee agreed the following actions for the Cork Community for the next 12 months:

- The Community Leader should ask the priests celebrating Mass in the convent chapel for sight of their celebret.
- The community should keep a register of all non-church groups with children and young people who use the community property; and ask the groups to complete form 1.5A Template 1.
- The Sister ministering with children in schools should complete a form 1.10A Template 1 for each school in which she ministers and send a copy of the completed forms to the Church Authority and the Designated Liaison Person.
- The Community Leader should inform the Designated Liaison Person when the key personnel have attended the Safeguarding Information Session, giving the name and role of those who have attended.

4. Knock Community Self-Audit: The Committee noted that:

- The community consists of 2 Sisters only.
- The Sisters have no ministries with children in external organisations.
- No non-Church groups working with children and young people use the community property.
- Mass is not celebrated in the community house.
- The community has a copy of the Congregation's Child Safeguarding Policy Statement for Ireland, with the necessary contact details.

Summing up: The Committee agreed that, as with the Belfast Community, it would not be necessary to attribute any actions to the Knock Community for the next 12 months. The community would be advised that they must make the Church Authority and the Congregation's Designated Liaison Person aware of any changes to their current circumstances, which would have safeguarding implications.

5. Roscrea Community Self-Audit: The Committee noted that:

- There are 4 Sisters resident in the community.
- Mass is celebrated in the chapel in the community grounds.
- One group holds an event in the community grounds annually – there is the possibility that children could be present at this event.
- No other groups use the property.
- One of the Sisters has an external ministry – visiting children in local schools.

- The community has two employees who have seen the Congregation's Child Safeguarding Policy Statement for Ireland and signed the agreement form.
- One of the Sisters is the Congregation's link for safeguarding in Ireland, reporting to the Designated Liaison Person, and she, together with another Sister from the community, sit on the Safeguarding Committee. They have received the appropriate training from the National Board.

Summing up: The Committee agreed the following actions for the Roscrea Community for the next 12 months:

- The community should ask priests celebrating Mass in the community chapel for sight of their celebrant.
- The community should ask the group holding an annual event in the community grounds to complete form 1.5A Template 1.
- The Sister ministering with children in schools should complete a form 1.10A Template 1 for each school she attends and send a copy to the Church Authority and the Congregation's Designated Liaison Person.

Any other Business

6. The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate and helpful to have representation from the Cork Community on the Safeguarding Committee, as it was the largest of the Congregation's communities in Ireland. They would make this recommendation to the Church Authority.

Meeting closed.