

APPENDIX A

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

DATE OF MEETING: 2nd FEBRUARY 2021 **LOCATION: CHIGWELL CONVENT**

Safeguarding Committee members present: Sister Eileen McLoughlin, Chair (EM); Sister Angelo Roncalli Corbett, Designated Liaison Person for the Congregation (KC); and Sister Marie Majella Galvin (MG)

Secretary to the Committee: Bridget Cullen (BC) **Apologies:** Sister Mary Joseph Jones

Introduction

1. EM welcomed MG, who joined the meeting via Zoom from the Knock Community.
2. EM explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the self-audit forms for the period 1st November 2019 to 31st October 2020, completed by the Irish communities, as required by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (the National Board).
3. Based on their review of the self-audits and the progress made against the actions agreed at last year's meeting, the Committee would decide what actions the communities should undertake going forward to improve their safeguarding practices.
4. EM added that the Committee was reviewing audit forms from the Cork and Knock Communities only this year, as the Belfast and Roscrea Communities had closed at the end of the last audit period.

Review of Self-Audit Forms

5. **Knock Community Self-Audit:** The Committee noted that there had been no changes in the community's circumstances since last year's audit. None of the Sisters had ministries involving children, nor ministries with external organisations involving children, and no groups with children visited the community.
6. The Committee agreed that it would not be necessary to attribute any actions to the community for the next audit year. It would suffice for Sister Mary Mangan to ask in her follow-up letter that the Sisters inform her and KC of any changes in their circumstances, which would have child safeguarding implications.
7. **Cork Community Self-Audit:** The Committee reviewed the completed self-audit form and the action plan which had been put in place by the Committee, at last year's meeting.
8. **Cork Community Action Plan for the Year 1st November 2019 to 31st October 2020 (attached at Appendix A):** The Committee noted the following against the actions:
 - **Action at A. (i):** As the Memorial Service was cancelled in this audit period (i.e. summer 2020) because of the Coronavirus restrictions, there was no need to have the Commemoration Group complete Form 1.5A Template 1

for the event. (This action had been attributed to Sister Una Mulvey in her role as a Director of the Congregation Trust.)

- **Action A. (ii):** The Bessborough Centre had completed Form 1.5A Template 1 and provided details of their insurance cover for the crèche children's visit to the convent on 17th December 2019.
 - **Action B. (i) & (ii):** Plans had been underway to hold a Safeguarding Information Session for key personnel, including Sisters, however, all planning was subsequently put on hold due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The Committee agreed that Action B would be included again in this year's action plan in the hope that the training could proceed at some point during the course of the year.
9. Overall, the Committee agreed that the actions for the Cork Community for the audit year 1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021 would be similar to the previous year.

Wider Discussion

10. **Cork & Roscrea Cemeteries:** EM reported that, due to Sister Una's death last year (RIP), it had been decided at today's Congregation Trust Directors Meeting that MG and Sister Catherine McLaughlin would assume responsibility for the cemeteries at Cork, Castle Pollard and Roscrea. As part of that, they would be responsible for ensuring that the Bessborough Commemoration Group and the Roscrea Memorial Gathering of the Adoptees completed Form 1.5A Template 1 in advance of any Memorial Events taking place. BC would send MG the forms when required.
11. **Training:** KC pointed out that the training position remained as recorded at last year's Committee Meeting, with the National Board no longer providing training specifically for Safeguarding Committee members. So, Sister Mary Joseph would, as previously agreed, attend the Safeguarding Information Session in Cork Convent, when it was rescheduled. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for the Knock Community to travel down to Cork for the training session.
12. **Final Report of the Mother & Baby Homes Commission of Investigation:** EM said the report had been published on 12th January and she had sent Teresa Devlin, the CEO of the National Board, a copy of the Press Statement issued by the Congregation on the publication of the report.

Close

13. EM thanked the group for attending, adding that she would send Sister Mary, on behalf of the Committee, a report of today's review of the communities' self-audits.