

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022    LOCATION: CHIGWELL CONVENT**

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

**Secretary to the Committee:** Bridget Cullen (BC)

**Apologies:** Sisters Mary Joseph Jones and Marie Majella Galvin

### **Introduction**

1. EM explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the self-audit forms for the audit period of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021, completed by the Knock and Cork Communities, as required by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (the National Board).
2. 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.

### **Review of Self-Audit Forms**

3. **Knock Community Self-Audit:** The Committee noted that there had been no changes in the community's circumstances, as regards safeguarding, since the previous audit. None of the Sisters had ministries involving children, nor ministries with external organisations involving children, and no groups with children visited the community. The community currently comprised three Sisters, following the death of Sister Genevieve Butler (RIP) on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
4. 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 Sister Julie Rose, the new Congregational Leader, and the new Designated Liaison Person of any changes in their circumstances, which would have child safeguarding implications.
5. **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.
6. **Cork Community Action Plan for the Audit Year 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 (attached at Appendix A):** The Committee noted the following against the actions:
  - **Action at A:** Due to Covid-19 restrictions, no groups with children and young people had visited Cork Convent during this audit period. The children from the Bessborough Centre crèche had not visited the Sisters.
  - **Action B (i) & (ii):** The Committee noted that it had not been possible to hold the planned Safeguarding Information Session for key personnel, including Sisters, during this audit period because of the Covid-19 restrictions. This had also been the case in the last audit period. The

Committee agreed that Action B would be included again in this year's action plan in the hope that the Covid-19 situation would improve, enabling the training to take place.

7. Overall, the Committee agreed that the actions for the Cork Community would remain unchanged for the audit year, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

#### **Wider Discussion**

8. The Committee noted that the National Board were reviewing and revising the current *Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards* because of changes in legislation, canon law, and the National Board's own experience of practice since the development of the *Policy and Standards* in 2016. The National Board were also in the process of developing a "one Church approach" to vulnerable adults, following a request from the Irish Bishops' Conference and AMRI.
9. It was noted for the record that the handover to the Congregation's new Leadership Team would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. It would then be a matter for the new Congregational Leader to appoint a Designated Liaison Person and a new Safeguarding Committee.

#### **Close**

10. EM thanked KC and BC for attending the meeting, adding that she would send Sister Mary, on behalf of the Committee, a report of today's review of the communities' safeguarding self-audits.