

OSA Child Safeguarding Development Plan 2017 – 2019



Vision:

To promote safe and sacred spaces that enable OSA ministries and communities of faith to thrive.

Context:

Children and young people are seen in Augustinian Churches every weekend. Some are altar servers and readers; others participate in Children's Liturgy. Some understand what is going on, while others cry, fall asleep or even ask when it will be over. This is our church.

We take Safeguarding seriously because of these children as they are now, but also because we are called to lead and to take care of them. They are the future of our church. When we mind them, respect them and given them responsibility, we develop relationships of trust which last a lifetime. We teach them to relate to a loving God.

Augustinian Friars and lay ministers are challenged to create a positive experience that will encourage and develop young people as full participants in our Christian community. Safeguarding our sacred space will encourage our children to grow in faith and love.

Welcome, listening and encouragement for all those who come to our churches, regardless of age, underpins Augustinian values. Creating a positive environment for our children and young people not only safeguards the young but ensures a healthy caring environment for all.

Resources:

The Provincial and his Council will financially underwrite all aspects of this plan annually.

OSA SAFEGUARDING DEVELOPMENT PLAN '17 – '19

1.	Creating & Maintaining Safe Environments	Timeframe 17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
1.1(i).	To support & consolidate the Safeguarding Development Group's work and membership.	On-going	5 Meetings; 85% Attendance & 1 new member.	5 Meetings; 82.5% Attendance & No new members	5 Meeting; 82.5% attendance; three prospective members attended 1/2 meetings.
1.1(ii).	To ensure that the OSA Recruitment & Vetting Policies are adhered to in respect of all Friars and Co-Workers.	April – May '17, '18 & '19	Policy approved June '17.	Drafting & customising 'Recruitment Policy' a work- in-progress'.	Ministries Leaflet & Vol. Ministries Info Pack launched Mar. '19 as new procedure across Province.
1.2.	To produce & disseminate an adult 'Code of Behaviour' leaflet.	April '18	Consultation & drafting process completed.	Produced Jan. '18 & launched 9 locations Feb. – Nov.	Compliance varies from 33 – 100% across 6 churches (i.e. 71% average) & 4 locations have yet to identify level of response.
1.3.	To produce & disseminate child friendly materials, posters, media images & 'Code of Conduct' leaflet.	April '18	Child-Friendly Leaflet finalised.	Produced Jan. '18 & launched 9 locations Feb. /Nov.	No success with St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan or Knocklyon Community College to-date.
1.4. & 1.8.	To raise awareness among Friars and Co-Workers of the safe care of all children, including those with specific needs.	June '18		Inter-Diocesan /Orders WG produced 'Adult Complaint Framework' Sept.	Booklet purchased.
1.5.	To maintain an up to-date local register of independent groups using Augustinian facilities.	April – May '17, '18 & '19	'17 Completed.	Relevant Audits confirm same.	N/A in 8 church locations & 2 LSGs maintaining register with follow-up required.

1.	Creating & Maintaining Safe Environments	Timeframe 17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
1.6. & 1.7.	To agree & publish a Confidential Complaints Procedure for Friars, Co-Workers & the Public.	Sept. '18		Not Progressed.	SDG decided current arrangement sufficient & that general invitation can be placed on Website (TBC).
1.9.	To agree & promote relevant IT & Social Media Guidelines for Friars and Co-Workers.	June '18		Drafting process commenced & advanced.	IT Guidelines launched Mar. '19 & presented to each LSG by SO for local proofing.
1.10.	To ensure that all Friars working in other agencies (i.e. external ministries) are Safeguarding compliant.	April – May '17, '18 & '19	'17 Completed.	Relevant Audits confirm same.	Process to be fully completed by 7 LSGs respectively.
5.	Training & Support for Keeping Children Safe	Timeframe '17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
5.1.	To ensure all OSA personnel are inducted into <i>Safeguarding Children: Policy, Standards & Guidance (2016)</i> .	On-going	⇒	Info Sessions completed St. Catherine's / John's Lane (Feb. & April) & Ballyboden (Nov.); Full-Day Limerick (Nov.)	Info Sessions completed Galway (Mar.), Rivermount (Diocesan Trainer) & Fethard (Oct.); Full-day Cork (Sept.).
5.2. & 5.3.	To complete a Province training needs analysis, design appropriate training responses & implement accordingly.	Sept. 2018		No new needs stated by LSGs or identified.	Progress Reports '18 – '19 & Audit Exercise used to inform future planning.
5.4.	To avail of relevant NBSCCCI training in support of OSA Safeguarding & Child Protection roles.	On-going	⇒	⇒	New SDG Members Induction Training to be arranged 2020. See 1.1(i).

5.	Training & Support for Keeping Children Safe	Timeframe '17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
5.5.	To ensure the provision of targeted training for parents/guardians & children on request.	On-going	No requests to-date.	No uptake in line with 5.2. & 5.3. above.	No requests received to-date.
5.6.	To provide information & advice to all Priors & Local Safeguarding Representatives.	On-going	⇒	⇒	⇒
6.	Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message	Timeframe '17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
6.1.	To agree and implement a <i>Communications Plan</i> .	Feb. '18	3 Newsletter issued + SDG Update included Dec. issue; Inaugural Network hosted.	Plan approved; 4 Newsletters & SDG Updates issued; Leaflets & Pop-ups launched; Network hosted & Safeguarding W/End completed.	4 Newsletter & 4 SDG Updates completed; All LSGs represented at Network (26 Attendees); Safeguarding W/End Leaflet produced & circulated. Young Persons Leaflet & Poster outstanding (See 1.3.).
6.2(i).	To inform all OSA personnel & communities of faith of the Safeguarding Standards & Procedures.	On-going	All requests answered.	All requests answered.	All requests answered.
6.2(ii).	To network all Priors & Local Safeguarding Representatives.	April 2017, 2018, 2019	'17 Completed.	'18 Completed.	'19 Completed.
6.3.	To customise all safeguarding materials into appropriate languages, where the need arises.	April '18		Polish materials launch in Cork Mar. '18.	Safeguarding Leaflet (Sept. '19) available in Polish (Cork).

6.	Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message	Timeframe '17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
6.4(i).	To liaise with other relevant agencies in the promotion of Safeguarding & Child Protection best practices.	On-going	Completed as required.	Completed as required.	Completed as required.
6.4(ii).	To agree <i>Safeguarding Protocols</i> with the Archdiocese of Dublin for three OSA Parish(es) & the Galway Diocese respectively.	Dub. Sept. 2017 & Galway Sept. '18	Dublin Archdiocese completed.	Galway Diocese declines approach for policy reasons.	Ministries Leaflet & Vol. Info Pack regarded positively by Dub. ArchD; 3 Parishes audited with positive feedback & no need for separate OSA Report; clarification sought re Dub. ArchD. - NBSCCC1 Reviews & status of OSA Parishes.
7.	Quality Assuring Compliance with the Standards	Timeframe '17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
7.1(i).	To undertake an annual audit exercise with Priors & Local Safeguarding Groups.	April – May '17, '18 & '19	'17 Completed.	'18 Completed.	
7.1(ii).	To complete annual reviews and corresponding reports of SDG's roles & work programmes.	Nov. 2017, 2018 & 2019	June '18 & April	SDG completed June & circulated to LSGs & Provincial Council.	3 Year Plan '17 – '19 reviewed & approved Sept. 2019 with completed progress update to be present to Provincial Council Jan. 2020
7.2(i).	To consult Priors, LSGs and respective communities on the draft components of each 3 Year Plan.	Oct./Nov. 2019	⇒	⇒	Due to take place Feb. 2020.

7.	Quality Assuring Compliance with the Standards	Timeframe '17 – '19	Achieved 2017	Achieved 2018	Achieved 2019
7.2(ii).	To submit the <i>OSA Safeguarding Plan '20 – '22</i> to the Provincial Council for approval.	Dec. 2019	⇒	⇒	Due Jan. 2020.
7.3.	To invite the NBSCCCI to undertake a review of OSA safeguarding practices and child protection procedures.	Sept. & Dec. 2019	⇒	⇒	New timescale to be reflected as target in '20 – '22 Plan.

End.