



# Safeguarding Development Newsletter

(Sept. 2018 – Issue 6)



### **SDG Meeting Report (June 2018)**

The Safeguarding Development Group (SDG) commenced their third year of work to shape Child Safeguarding policy and practices across OSA parishes and communities. In April 2018 we held our second National Network Meeting for Friars and LSG. At our June meeting we reviewed the feedback received from those who attended the day. Overall, the day was positively evaluated. There is clearly immense goodwill towards the SDG and its on-going work. The guest speaker Sandra Neville who spoke about 'Why Safeguarding?' was especially well received. Both Friars and LSG were represented, but due to other commitments the level of attendance was down on last year. Of key importance, it was noted that Friars can feel overwhelmed by the amount of work required to ensure child safeguarding standards are met and there were calls for greater practical support.

Recent OSA Parish/Community Volunteer Celebration Events were discussed. The occasions were well attended at eight locations nationwide and provided an opportunity to reinforce the message that child safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The new *Children's Leaflet* and *Adult Code of Conduct* were launched at these meetings and was very well received.

Each OSA Parish/Community submitted a completed audit in May 2018 and these were reviewed by the SDG in June. The SDG recommended that more specific information about Garda Vetting and Training activities should be sought in

future audits. The Audit Document will be reviewed by the SDG in the coming months with a view to enhancing the level of specific information contained in completed audits. The revised Audit Document will also provide more direction to LSG in how to complete an action plan. It is hoped that future audits will highlight what is being done well and identify the aspects of child safeguarding that are not being achieved. It was noted with regret that many communities have few or no activities for children or young people.

### **Safeguarding Promotion**

#### **Weekend 17/18 Nov.2018**

The 'Provincial's Letter' is to continue with the suggestion this year that it might be a response to a child's enquiry. See below:

"Hello, I've looked into your Church house from the street on my way home from school and wondered if it's safe. Some of my friends are in the children's choir and they enjoy the singing. My parents don't go to church, so I can't go. I've seen some old people coming out. They smile at me but some of them don't look happy. Why are they not happy? If I did go in would it be safe? And if it is, how will Mum and Dad know so I could then go with my friends? Maybe.

I know how to use the zebra crossing but how do you use the church house? And how do I find out? Please can you leave a note for me in the porch. Sue."

As *Universal Children's Day* takes place 20 Nov. this could provide an opportunity for other activities to be included in the Safeguarding Promotion. More info and guidance will be provided after the SDG Meeting 29 Sept. Don your thinking caps!

## Safeguarding Development Group Internal Review (April 2016 – June 2018)

Established April 2016, the SDG has held 11 meetings to and including the meeting in June 2018, while two gatherings of the *Safeguarding Network 2017 & 2018* have taken place. That's a fair bit of business covered. However, having an opportunity to review members' individual experiences and group effectiveness was considered a healthy exercise to undertake. Important questions are addressed, such as: *What has and is working well? What could be improved and what needs to be different with an eye to the future?* Overall the ratings and comments below will give you a sense of how members judge the SDG tract record to-date and what priorities are named for the future of Safeguarding across the Augustinian Province in Ireland. Your comments and feedback would be welcome.

The current membership includes Annette Cumiskey (Chair), Mary Bryne (Finglas South), Fr. Michael Collinder (New Ross), Geraldine Carey van Dam (Limerick), Joan Donovan (Drogheda), Pauline Ni Dhuibhir (Ballyboden), Fr. John Hennebry (Provincial) & Tony Murphy (SO & Sec.).

### Section 1 – Purpose & Teamwork

Summary Ratings	
On a scale of 1 - 5 (1 = "Poor"; 3 = "Good"; 5 = "Excellent"):	
● <i>Clarity of SDG Purpose</i>	4.6
● <i>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</i>	4.1
● <i>Time Management</i>	4.3
● <i>Range &amp; Scope of Discussions</i>	4.4
● <i>Decision-Making &amp; Follow Through</i>	4.6
● <i>Use of Individual Skills &amp; Strengths</i>	4.4
● <i>Developing Team Spirit &amp; Climate</i>	4.3
● <i>Resolving Conflict or Disagreements</i>	4.2
● <i>Prior Documentation</i>	4.8
● <i>Facilities (e.g. location; rooms; refreshments/lunch)</i>	5
● <i>Induction &amp; On-going Training</i>	4
● <i>Communicating the Work</i>	4.6
● <i>Links with Local Safeguarding Groups</i>	3.5

**Section 2 – What does the SDG need to STOP, CONTINUE and/or START doing?**

STOP DOING?	CONTINUE DOING?	START DOING?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Probably not our remit to promote child-centred activities – other ministries to concentrate on this.</li> <li>× Story telling &amp; anecdotes that do not progress the discussion in hand.</li> <li>× Review number of meetings, perhaps 3 per annum plus Network event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Support parishes &amp; communities to implement standards</li> <li>✓ Develop materials that simplify processes at local level.</li> <li>✓ Regular meetings &amp; share ideas.</li> <li>✓ Support each other &amp; have respectful interaction.</li> <li>✓ Good leadership from John &amp; Tony.</li> <li>✓ Encourage adults to become involved in activities with children &amp; young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Give more practical supports to LSGs.</li> <li>➤ Seek out practical examples of efficient implementation strategies &amp; share with other groups.</li> <li>➤ Forge better relationships with local reps./groups.</li> <li>➤ Non-conforming areas need to comply with the relevant policies and practices in place.</li> <li>➤ Plan for succession. Get new members.</li> <li>➤ Encourage adults to work with &amp; mentor young people (16 – 18 yrs.).</li> <li>➤ Have GDPR training.</li> </ul>

**Section 3 - Circle the image(s) that most reflects your sense of what can be achieved over the next 3-5 years and say a little about that:**

			
<p><b>The Tortoise:</b> Making slow but sure progress with more time &amp; effort needed to support LSGs.</p>	<p><b>The Tree:</b> SDG is the vine &amp; branches with strong LSG roots. The challenge is to reach-out to young people.</p>	<p><b>The Wheels:</b> Things are getting clearer &amp; LSGs are recognising where they fit in. Complex connections dioceses, Order, Churches, ministries, faithful &amp; children – all interconnected.</p>	<p><b>The Hot Air Balloon:</b> We have gone a long way on our journey and we have greater clarity of purpose, and we need to keep going.</p>

(SDG Internal Review: 16 June 2018).