

Q 6 Training and Support	a) i	Induction process carried out	38	1	1	0	40
	ii	Church personnel signed S G agreement	34	2	1	3	40
	b) i	Clergy listed and training attended	34	3	1	2	40
	ii	List of those with specific roles and full day training	30	3	1	2	40
	iii	Listing of Sacristans and other group leaders e.g.	16	11	5	08	40
	iv	Attended Full day training	15	06	4	15	40
	v	Attended Information session	12	9	3	16	40
	c)	Role Specific Training requested	12	10	5	13	40
	d)	SG awareness exercise with parents/guardians?	19	8	4	9	40
	e)	i. Support for Safeguarding Reps?	30	7	1	2	40
		ii. Meetings with PPC and SG Reps	13	13	1	1	40
Q 7 Safeguarding posters/literature prominently	7a) i	Safeguarding Policy, up-to-date contact details etc	40	0	0	0	40
	ii	Code of conduct for adults	38	1	1	0	40
	iii	Names of Parish safeguarding Reps	40	0	0	0	40
	iv	Children's poster in sacristy	37	0	2	1	40
	v	Code of conduct for children - sacristy	37	0	3	0	40
	vi	Celebret request	38	0	1	0	40
	7 b) i	Up-to-date literature prominently displayed	38	1	1	0	40
	ii	Readily available in churches	37	2	1	0	40
	7 c) i	CCTV Signage	21	1	18	0	40
	ii	Consent	10	3	16	2	40
Q 8 Filing system	I	Application/Declaration/Agreement form	39	0	0	1	40
	li	Attendance lists and sign in/out records	36	0	4	0	40
	lii	Parent/Medial consent forms	35	0	4	0	40
	lv	Accident/incident forms	36	0	4	0	40
	V	Hazard Assessments	30	0	9	1	40
	vi	Use of Church Property Form	20	1	19	0	40

Parish Safeguarding Audit Report for year ended 31 December 2020

The Safeguarding Audit for 2020 was distributed to all Parishes during the first week of December with a request that the completed audit be returned to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office on or before 6th January 2021. 40 parishes returned completed forms, many were late citing covid and difficulty of getting people together to complete as an issue.

Q 1. Church related Activities: 31 parishes indicated that they have activities for young people – mainly altar servers. 3 had no activities and 6 replied that this did not apply to the parish

Q 2. Maintaining safe environments: 28 parishes that have activities with children indicated that they have the relevant registers while 11 parishes said this did not apply to their parish

Q 3. Working directly/indirectly with young children: From the replies given it appears that there is a high level of compliance in this area with all topics under this heading being correctly implemented. However, even though this question only allowed for YES or NO answers 6 parishes indicated that the topic did not apply to the parish.

Q 4. Use of Church Property: Of the 40 parishes that completed the audit 26 indicated that church property is not used by 'non-church' groups. 2 parishes did not answer all the questions on insurance / safeguarding policy or completion of use of Church Property form SG-07. As reflected in previous audits there still appears to be an element of uncertainty regarding this area. One parish indicated that ownership/ leasing of church property is in transition back to the parish, but this process has been held up due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Q 5. Staff volunteer recruitment 2019/20: This question was confined to recruitment during 2019/20: it is difficult to ascertain if the answers to this question gave consideration to the pre Covid-19 period – i.e., all of 2019 and the first three months of 2020 or post Covid-19. It would appear that no recruitment has happened during this period. Most parishes indicated that this question did not apply for the period 2019/20.

The question regarding the presence of a non-diocesan priest assisting in a parish was not answered by most parishes. One parish did indicate that they do benefit from the assistance of such a person.

Q 6. Training and Support: 38 parishes indicated that they do have an induction process in place for new staff/volunteers and 34 replied positively to the question re having safeguarding agreement forms signed by personnel. The answers to questions re attendance at full day training or information sessions was more difficult to interpret. Many parishes do not appear to keep any record re training – it would appear staff/volunteers are informed that training is being provided but the parishes do not have any record of who attended such training or when. Questions are answered with question marks. From the answers provided it would appear that Clergy and Parish Representatives have all attended full day training. However, in many instances dates of attendance at training were not provided. 30 parishes indicated that the parish priest and the Safeguarding Rep(s) meet on a regular basis while 13 parishes did not record meetings between reps and PPC's.

6 parishes requested role specific training –e.g. for sacristans, PPC and Cluster Council members, new volunteers. One parish requested guidance for those involved in online sacramental preparation. 2 parishes indicated that they hope to appoint new safeguarding Reps who will require training. Most parishes ignored this question

Q 7. Safeguarding Posters, literature etc: Compliance in this area would appear to be almost 100%. Safeguarding literature/pamphlets has been removed from some churches in keeping with Covid-19 restrictions. 21 parishes replied that they do have CCTV – one does not have signage stating this and 3 do not appear to have any type of consent policy in place.

Q 8. Filing System: Again, compliance would appear to be high with parishes indicating the correct storage of safeguarding documentation.

Conclusions: Having reviewed the replies from the 40 parishes that responded to this Audit there is a high level of compliance in most areas. As in previous years there is still a level of ambiguity in answering some questions. It was hoped that the phrasing of questions in the audit this year would bring about a greater degree of clarity. In a number of situations answers which should be YES or NO were left unanswered or answered with a question mark or an N/A.

It must be recognised that the Covid-19 restrictions have impacted greatly on the life of the parish and indeed on how some questions may have been answered in this audit with many child related activities ceasing in early 2020.

Signed: 
Chairperson Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Date: 08/03/22