

Congregation of the Passion



November 2015

In December 2014 the National Board for Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland NBSCCCI undertook a review of Safeguarding Practice in the religious Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (The Passionists). The NBSCCCI made twelve recommendations and the following is the progress made to date and accepted by the National Board for Safeguarding. The Passionists of St. Patrick's Province remain committed to creating a safe, healthy and inclusive environment for all, particularly, the children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom we work. The participation of children and young people is valued and encouraged by all Passionists in their pastoral ministry and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. The Passionists recognize the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults and are committed to their support and safeguarding.

	Recommendation	Action- Progress
1.	The Provincial should ensure that the interim revision of the Passionist child safeguarding document contains a formal endorsement by him and by the Provincial Council.	The document has now been signed and endorsed by the Provincial.
2.	The Provincial should ensure that the interim revision of the Passionist child safeguarding document states that it is a formal requirement for members of the congregation, who are in transition between ministries/locations, to have a celebret or letter of good standing.	9.3 of the Passionist policy states that all members must have a celebret or letter of good standing when they are in ministry or in transition between ministries or positions
3.	The Provincial should ensure that written protocols are in place with the relevant diocesan safeguarding offices to formalise the actions to be taken (a) in the event of an allegation (b) subsequent to an allegation.	9.5 of the Passionist Policy in states that in the event of a concern or complaint regarding a priest or religious the local Bishop will be informed.
4.	The Provincial should ensure that the interim revision of the Passionist child safeguarding document contains a section setting out a general complaints policy.	4.6 of the Passionist Policy outlines the complaints procedure.
5.	The Provincial should ensure that all active files are structured according to NBSCCCI guidance.	All files have been restructured to reflect the guidance of the NSBCCCI.

6.	The Provincial should ensure that the interim revision of the Passionist child safeguarding document makes full reference to Criteria 3.5 – 3.9, in relation to anti-bullying, whistle blowing, dealing with unacceptable behaviour, anti-discriminatory practice and intimate care for children with disabilities.	The Passionist Policy contains sections on anti-bullying 4.4, whistleblowing 8.6, discipline and unacceptable behaviour 4.5, anti-discriminatory behaviour 4.2, and the care of children with disabilities 4.3.
7.	The Provincial should ensure that the Safeguarding Committee assesses, plans and monitors the training to meet the assessed needs of the congregation, as part of an annual training report.	The Safeguarding Committee have embarked on this task and have completed training with the NSBCCCI to assist them.
8.	The Provincial should ensure that the Safeguarding Committee addresses the following gaps in the communication agenda a) website publication of safeguarding document b) communication material for children and young people c) development of a Passionist safeguarding communications policy.	a) The Safeguarding Policy is now on the website. b) all communications material is to be reviewed as part of the Safeguarding Committees agenda and training day. c) Sect 5 of Passionist Safeguarding Policy.
9.	The Provincial should carry out a review of the terms of reference and membership of the Advisory Panel in conjunction with the NSBCCCI, setting out its role within the overall safeguarding structure, and updating its membership, internal management arrangements, and recording arrangements.	A review is underway of the role, purpose and function of the Advisory Panel together with a review of its Terms of Reference. It is envisaged that this exercise will be completed by the end of the year.
10.	The Provincial should, in conjunction with NSBCCCI, review and extend the scope of the Covenants of Care to explicitly state restrictions on contact with children and young people.	The Covenants of Care have been revised to include explicit restrictions in relation to contact with children and young people and venues where they may be present.
11.	The Provincial should immediately establish that one of the roles of the Advisory Panel is to formally review all existing Covenants of Care on a regular basis, and should also ensure that the training and support needs of the personnel who manage and monitor the covenants are kept under review.	The Review of the Advisory Panel is taking account of the changes to the Covenants of Care and the requirement that they be monitored. Independent supervision and support has been secured for the Superior of the men out of ministry.
12.	The Provincial should clarify the terms of reference of the Safeguarding Committee in conjunction with the NSBCCCI, setting out its role within the overall safeguarding structure, and its accountability to him and to the Provincial Council for monitoring all preventative aspects of safeguarding within the Passionist congregation as a whole. He should require an annual report from the committee on the implementation of the safeguarding standards within the Passionist congregation.	The role of the Safeguarding Committee has been revised since last February in accordance with the recommendation.