

## Support for survivors of abuse

The Catholic Church of England and Wales welcomes and encourages those that have suffered or been affected by abuse within the context of the Church to come forward. This enables us both to work with Police and Social Care agencies to respond appropriately but also to provide pastoral support to assist in the healing process.



“I am grateful for all the support and encouragement you have given me over the last 8 months...your influence and sensitivity has helped him very much.”

## Offender Management

We liaise closely with colleagues in the Prison and Probation services, helping to monitor those released from prison who may require a level of supervision in the community. We achieve this through tightly negotiated agreements known as “Covenants of Care.”

There are currently 178 such Covenants in operation nationally.

## Striving for Excellence



We continue to hear of a huge variety of projects, endeavours and activities which enrich and support the lives of all within our communities, our children, our youth and our elderly. Safeguarding stands at the centre of these activities.

## Management of Allegations

It is vital we continue to respond appropriately, robustly and transparently when allegations of abuse are made. No organisation sadly is immune from risk when working so closely with vulnerable people.

In 2008 we dealt with 50 allegations relating to 64 alleged victims. This is a slight decrease compared to 2007.

All allegations were referred to the Police and in 29 cases they took no further action.

If you want to see or download the complete report it can be accessed at [www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

If you have any queries or comments about anything in this summary please contact your Diocesan Safeguarding Office or Religious Safeguarding Representative.



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# Safeguarding within the Catholic Church of England & Wales

Annual Report  
Summary 2008-2009

Safeguarding is central to the ministry of the Church. Pope Benedict underlined its importance when speaking about abuse in the Church - "The wounds caused by such acts run deep, and it is an urgent task to rebuild confidence and trust where these have been damaged. In your continuing efforts to deal effectively with this problem, it is important to establish the truth of what happened in the past, to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent it from occurring again, to ensure that the principles of justice are fully respected and, above all to bring healing to the victims."

Safeguarding in the parishes, religious orders and dioceses is undertaken by hundreds of people, in a voluntary capacity, working as safeguarding representatives or as members of safeguarding commissions. They are supported in that work by a few professional staff in the dioceses and religious orders. They deserve the thanks of all members of the church for their commitment to this work.

On 1 July 2008 the new national structures recommended in Safeguarding with Confidence - the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) and the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) - were established. This report covers the work of these two bodies in our first year.



*Brian Kilgallon*

Chair of The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC)

## The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC)

The role of the NCSC mandated by the Conferences of Bishops and Religious is to agree safeguarding policy and ensure standards are met and policies implemented across dioceses and religious congregations.

### Specific areas of activity in 2008-2009 included:

- ⊕ 2 Safeguarding study days for Bishops and Congregation Leaders.
- ⊕ Working with Insurers to ensure a more consistent response to survivors of abuse.
- ⊕ Implementing Independent Investigation and Review Processes following the completion of enquiries by the Police and Social Care agencies.
- ⊕ Developing positive engagement with unaligned religious orders.

For details of the NCSC see [www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

## The Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS)

As an agency within the Department of Christian Responsibility and Citizenship, CSAS is responsible for driving and supporting improvements in safeguarding practice.

### Some of its achievements in 2008-2009 include:

- ⊕ Delivering presentation events in every diocese on safer recruitment practice and the government Vetting & Barring Scheme.
- ⊕ Developing and introducing the Parish Resource Pack to support the invaluable work of the Parish Safeguarding Representatives.
- ⊕ Developing the National Safeguarding Procedures for Children and Vulnerable Adults in a web based format to make them accessible to all ([www.csasprocedures.uk.net](http://www.csasprocedures.uk.net))
- ⊕ Holding a highly successful 3 day National Conference.

- ⊕ Working as one of the top 10 Registered Bodies in the country for CRB disclosures.
- ⊕ Liaising with government departments, other faith groups, national bodies and chairing the Faith Sector consultation group with the CRB/Home Office.

For details on CSAS see [www.csas.uk.net](http://www.csas.uk.net)

## Developments in Dioceses, Parishes and Religious Congregations

### Recruitment & Training

It is here that the vital day to day ministries of supporting, caring for and protecting the vulnerable takes place. The range and variety of activities depend heavily on the active involvement of literally thousands of "volunteers," supported by our Safeguarding Representatives.

- ⊕ 96% of our parishes have at least one Safeguarding Representative.
- ⊕ To ensure all those who help out in this way are suitable we undertake safer recruitment practice with 17,000 CRB checks completed in 2008.
- ⊕ Training is also on offer to support people in this invaluable work with nearly 6,000 people attending approximately 500 diverse training events in 2008.
- ⊕ "Your training session and guidelines gave me everything I need - thank you." (Safeguarding Awareness Training, Hexham & Newcastle Diocese)
- ⊕ "This was an excellent session, professional, practical and a very common sense approach" (Safe Practice & Recruitment Training, Portsmouth Diocese)