

- *“Safeguarding Induction/Refresher Programme is in place for all newly appointed Reps which runs every 8 weeks.” Leeds Diocese*
- *“We have built on existing good relationships with our Safeguarding Reps who share their insights and feelings and are keen to contribute to our constant efforts to improve the way we work.” Birmingham Diocese*
- *“All training is provided by local authority trainers ensuring it is up to date and professionally presented.” Daughters of the Cross of Liege*
- *“The training has developed an awareness of the importance of the dignity of every human being and the implications of this for safeguarding.” Les Filles de la Croix*

Support for survivors of abuse

Recent events concerning abuse enquiry reports in Ireland and allegations in Europe and elsewhere have inevitably caused distress to many. This has further emphasised the need to improve the way we respond to survivors.

The NCSC and CSAS are eager to develop a dialogue with representatives from survivor groups and charities to mutually shape the way the Church responds to survivors of abuse.

Offender Management

It was anticipated last year that due to the strong working relationships forged between our safeguarding offices and colleagues in the Police, Probation and Prison Services, this would be a growing area of work, and so it has proved.

We have seen a rise from 178 in 2008 to 212 in 2009 of Covenants of Care. These are agreements drawn up between the Church and an individual who is considered to represent a possible risk.

In many cases these Covenants are co-drafted with Police or Probation and we aim to monitor them closely. Given the nature of this field of work, there is no room for naïveté and the Covenants need to be robustly defined and rigorously monitored.

Management of Allegations

We firmly believe that it is important, not only that we have robust procedures for responding to allegations, but also that we are totally transparent about the numbers and types of allegations, and how they were dealt with.

In 2009 there were 41 allegations of abuse relating to 43 alleged abusers and 52 victims. Whilst this represents a small decrease compared to 2008, this may not be a statistically significant decrease and as has been noted before, we cannot yet determine any trend as we require future years data.

All allegations were referred to the Police and Social Care Agencies and for 24 of the 43 alleged abusers, these agencies took no further action.

If you want to see or download the complete report it can be accessed at 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 2009 - 2010

NCSC DEVELOPMENTS 2009/2010

The year has seen the NCSC continuing to implement the decisions of the Bishops and Congregation Leaders following their acceptance of the Cumberlege recommendations.

Specifically:

- Review Protocol: This is an independent review of a Commission recommendation prior to the decision by a Bishop or Congregation Leader. There have been 7 reviews completed to date.
- Preliminary Enquiry Protocol: This introduces an independent element into the task of fact finding to determine risk following completion of statutory investigations. 8 enquiries have been requested with 5 completed.
- Non-aligned Religious Orders: An accurate database has been developed identifying those Orders not affiliated to CoR and/or not aligned to a Commission. Work has commenced ensuring they are suitably supported.
- Audit: The NCSC has commissioned CSAS to undertake a programme of qualitative diocesan safeguarding audits. This will facilitate the sharing of good practice and identify any current improvement areas.

CSAS DEVELOPMENTS 2009/2010

This year these have involved:-

- A highly successful 3 day National Conference “Reconciliation and Responsibility.”
- Liaising closely with colleagues in CRB, ISA, dioceses, religious orders and Catholic charities and organisations in order to successfully implement the Government’s Vetting & Barring Scheme.
- We have commenced a rolling programme of Policy and Procedure reviews to ensure the National Safeguarding Policies and Procedures of the Catholic Church are effective and consistent with changing legislation and improvements in practice.

The second annual report of the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission, highlights some of the work undertaken by the Commission, by the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service, and by so many on behalf of the Catholic Community, to promote the wellbeing of the most vulnerable in our communities, comes at a time when the subject of abuse and ill treatment of the young and the elderly is rarely out of the media’s attention.

It is important that we continue to progress our safeguarding ministry with confidence whilst not allowing complacency to intrude. Reasons for our continued confidence are demonstrated within the report. They include not just the positive activities that have been achieved throughout 2009-2010 but also the very fact that we are happy to present both these activities and our management of allegations for public scrutiny.

In addition our approach has been singled out as an example for the Catholic Church internationally to emulate by the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) in Rome. In the governments new version of “Working Together to Safeguard Children,” 2010 our national procedures have been referenced as an exemplar.

We cannot be complacent. There are areas where we know we have improvements to make. In the coming year the NCSC intends to focus more attention on the response to those who have been affected by abuse.

We continue to develop the “One Church” approach to safeguarding through refining our auditing and monitoring arrangements, strengthening the support systems available for the religious, as well as the dioceses and understanding what it is to have “a Culture of Safeguarding.” We know however that this is a journey and we have a distance to travel.

We also need to rise to the challenge of thoroughly implementing the new Vetting and Barring Scheme. The scheme will provide an additional safeguard to our existing safer recruitment practice, it is nevertheless a “big ask” given the scope and diversity of all the activities carried out within the Catholic Church in England and Wales which enrich the lives of all and particularly the most vulnerable.

We are currently awaiting more detail concerning the new Governments ‘remodelling’ of the scheme.



I take this opportunity to thank all the safeguarding representatives in parishes and religious orders, the safeguarding staff and commission members in dioceses and religious orders, the staff of CSAS and my colleagues on the NCSC for their commitment and work over the last year.

Bini Kigallon

Chair of The National
Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC)

- In order to successfully embed a “culture of safeguarding,” as envisaged by Cumberlege, within the Church as a whole, work has begun in developing the Theology of safeguarding which will be accessible to clergy, religious and laity. An attitudinal survey will follow to gather a broad cross section of views about how safeguarding is currently perceived.
- CSAS has worked with Caritas and Marriage & Family Life to create a web based resource bank of materials to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and respond more sensitively to people experiencing it (www.cedar.uk.net)

Developments in Dioceses, Parishes and Religious Congregations

“The work of safeguarding people has to be seen within the overall mission of the Church: otherwise it starts to look bureaucratic and burdensome, and what should be life affirming becomes life-draining and the community loses hope. As she seeks to protect the vulnerable and weak the Church needs “to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8). It is a ministry of love and healing and seeks justice for all.”

(Safeguarding with Confidence - The Cumberlege Commission Report 2007)

If evidence is needed of “life affirming” activities which are the essence of the mission of the Church, then our parishes and religious congregations provide that evidence. It is not just to be found in the more traditional roles of providing education for the young and care for the elderly, but also in the range of lively and at times innovative activities provided through sacramental preparation, youth ministry, social and recreational activities, home visiting and support for the needy and the many “social welfare” services provided by Catholic charities and organisations.

- 97% of parishes have at least one Safeguarding Representative.
- 986 training sessions on diverse aspects of safeguarding were delivered to 8974 people. This is a significant increase on the previous year.