

Date: December 2017

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**The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland  
review Implementation of Recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> tranche of Safeguarding  
Reviews published on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**OVERVIEW REPORT**

The National Board of Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland's (National Board) reviews of the final group of religious congregations assessed against the Church's 2009 Child Safeguarding Standards were reported on in April 2017. The fieldwork had taken place in the previous year but there was a delay in the publication of the reports due to the imminent publication of the Northern Ireland Historical Inquiry (HIA) report. The 4 Congregations/Orders whose reports were published in April 2017 were examined by the HIA.

At the same time as the reviews by the National Board were being conducted, there were also significant changes to Policy, Standards and Guidance underway. In April 2016, the Church in Ireland adopted *Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016* which was reflective of changes to legislation and practice since the original Standards were created in 2009.

A number of the recommendations made in the final tranche of reviews were cognisant of the commitment made by the 4 Congregations/Orders to adopt *Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016*. The 4 Congregations/Orders have all (since the fieldwork) embraced the 2016 policy and standards and have engaged, through individual meetings and training, with the National Board to ensure improvements (where required) to their child safeguarding practice.

The 4 Congregation/Orders have now submitted an update report on the Implementation of their Recommendations as follows:

1. De la Salle Brothers – *See bottom of this report – Pages 3-6*
2. Nazareth Sisters – *See bottom of this report – Pages 7-8*
3. Norbertine Order– *See bottom of this report – Page 9*
4. Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Sisters– *See bottom of this report – Page 10 or click on the link below:*  
[http://www.goodshepherdsisters.com/2017-10-20\\_NBSCCCI\\_Good\\_Shepherd\\_progress\\_report.pdf](http://www.goodshepherdsisters.com/2017-10-20_NBSCCCI_Good_Shepherd_progress_report.pdf)



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When the National Board reported on the reviews of these 4 Orders/Congregations, it was highlighted that there was still cause for concern relating to 3 of the 4. Not surprisingly therefore there has been considerable engagement with members to support them in improving their practice. Training has taken place with Child Safeguarding Committees to ensure that *Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016* are being embedded. It is fair to reflect that there are still challenges ahead and continued supports and monitoring is required to ensure that children continue to be safeguarded in the ministries of the Orders/Congregations.

The Norbertine Order has ceased all ministries in County Cavan. There are a few priests who are ministering in dioceses across Ireland and adhere to the child safeguarding policy and procedures of the dioceses in which they minister. There are no concerns about these priests. The outstanding issue for the Norbertines is their ability to respond to any complainant who comes forward. They acknowledge their need to offer a caring and pastoral response.

The De La Salle Order has appointed a lay woman as their Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and discussions have taken place with the National Board to ensure that all allegations are responded to appropriately.

The Sisters of Nazareth have also a lay DLP who along with a religious Sister made great efforts to put in place safe structures, training and records.

Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Board as was their commitment at the time of the review report and Sisters as well as lay staff attend training with the National Board.

Teresa Devlin  
Chief Executive Officer

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## De la SALLE BROTHERS

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action - Progress</b>
<b>1. The Provincial must ensure that the De la Salle Brothers in Ireland formally adopt the 2016 Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland and ensure that the Child Safeguarding Policy Statement on Page 8 of that document is appropriately completed and properly displayed in all De La Salle community houses and pastoral centres.</b>	<b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>Further information by way of appendices forwarded to the National Board which illustrate that the 2016 Document has been formally adopted on 29 Aug. 2016. A Poster is now in place since the appointment of the new Designated Liaison Person, with all contact details required to report an allegation.</i>
<b>2. The Provincial of the new Province of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta must ensure that all file records within the congregation’s Irish Sector are searched for any documents relating to canonical processes that were initiated in relation to De La Salle Brothers against whom allegations of child abuse have been made.</b>	<b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>All such file records are stored in the De La Salle Archives in Rome. Such information is released only for legal reasons e.g. during the Northern Ireland Inquiry into Institutional Abuse 1925-1995. On those occasions the required evidence was recovered from the De La Salle Archives in Rome but remains confidential. To our knowledge no other documents relating to canonical processes were initiated in relation to De La Salle Brothers against whom allegations of child abuse have been made.</i>  <i>Two Brothers were charged with Child sexual offences. One of those Brothers had the case against him dismissed in court. The other was given a two year suspended sentence (it was on the lower end of the abuse scale, he freely admitted it and apologised for it). He is now four years deceased.</i>
<b>3. Once the HIA NI has issued its report in early 2017, the Regional Leader of the De La Salle Brothers in Ireland should engage someone with the requisite IT, archival and administrative skills to organise a central case file record system</b>	<b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>Volume 4 of the HIA NI Report deals with all matters relevant to the De La Salle Brothers and is available on line and hard copy. Confidential data is available on all Complainants and Respondents in summary form on a hard copy document.</i>



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<p><b>in both hard copy and electronic format. Such a system needs to have the capacity to cross reference all named complainants with all named Brothers against whom allegations have been made.</b></p>	<p><i>More detailed files on each individual are available electronically; these contain summary document where all complaints are recorded up until 2014. A further draft sample page of a document for all complaints for 2014 + is also included. It is in the process of being developed to meet the needs of "Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016" It will be part of the 2018 Safeguarding Plan.</i></p>
<p><b>4. When a central case filing system is in place, the DLP needs to make contact with the relevant police force and statutory child protection agency to make sure that all information that should be notified to these bodies concerning Brothers against whom allegations of child abuse have been made is now notified.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <b><i>Contacts with Agencies in relation to past Reporting.</i></b> <i>Contact has been made with Garda Headquarters in Harcourt St. in Dublin. The response has been that they do not release this information. Tusla did not respond to our contact request. Contact has been made with NBSCCCI. It gives the names of the Respondents but not of the Complainants and is marked "Strictly Private and Confidential".</i></p>
<p><b>5. The Provincial must ensure that the De La Salle congregation in Ireland develops a written Pastoral Outreach Policy and Plan to address the needs of complainants, in which the resources, in terms of post holders, services and finances that are required to operationalize such a plan are identified and put in place.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>The Pastoral Outreach Policy has always been to reach out to those Complainants who request it. We have been faithful to this policy despite our vulnerability. This remains our Outreach Policy as it may very well be that Complainants do not wish to meet us.</i></p>
<p><b>6. The DLP should develop a computerised base of all members of the congregation living in Ireland, to include a record of their Garda vetting / PSNI clearance status.</b></p>	<p><i>Only those Brothers whose ministry is with minors, vulnerable adults and leadership are required by the NBSCCCI to be vetted.</i></p>



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<p><b>7. The Provincial must ensure that the requirements of Standard 3 are being met in all De La Salle related schools and pastoral centres.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>For all Safeguarding purposes, Lasallian schools in the Republic of Ireland are the responsibility of the Le Chéile Trust and the appropriate Diocesan Patron Bodies for Primary Schools. In Northern Ireland Lasallian Schools are the responsibility of the Education Authority and the respective Area Boards. The Trustees employ the Pastoral Centres and Care Home staffs only.</i></p>
<p><b>8. The Safeguarding Committee should take responsibility for establishing the child safeguarding training needs of De La Salle Brothers and employees, and ensures that they are provided with the requisite training.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>All De La Salle Brothers who are engaged with minors, vulnerable adults and Leadership positions have been trained. The training of lay employees takes place on 13 and 16 November 2017.</i></p>
<p><b>9. The Regional Superior and DLP in Ireland should review the agreement reached with HSE / Tusla in September 2014 regarding the programme of work to improve child safeguarding practice and implement the steps that remain to be acted on.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>All De La Salle Brothers who are engaged with minors, vulnerable adults and Leadership positions have been trained. The training of lay employees takes place on 13 and 16 November 2017.</i></p>
<p><b>10. The Provincial ensures that the De La Salle Brothers select, appoint and acquire training for a lay male Support Person and a lay female Support Person to work with complainants and victims.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>From 1996 until 2016 the De La Salle Order has provided a professional counselling and pastoral service for all complainants. It continues to do so for 2017. See also response to Recommendation 9 above.</i></p>



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<p><b>11. That the congregations’ new Oxford based Provincial Safeguarding Officer for Child Protection come to Ireland to work with the DLP on arranging for living Brothers against whom allegations of child abuse have been made to undertake a professional Risk Assessment with a skilled independent consultant, on the basis of which a Safety Plan for each such member would be drawn up and implemented, in conjunction with Tusla.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>The De La Salle Policy is as follows:</i> <i>The former DLPs and District leadership have been attentive and active in the area of support for every Brother against whom allegations of child abuse have been made.</i> <i>They meet with him as soon as he receives an allegation to discuss and decide with him who he wishes to be his advisor. They then arrange for that person to be put in place.</i></p>
<p><b>12. That the Provincial of the new Province of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta, in cooperation with the Leader of the Irish Sector of the Province, review the supports that are in place for Brothers against whom allegations of child abuse have been made and make whatever improvements in such supports that are indicated.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In Place</i></b> <i>The De La Salle Policy is as follows:</i> <i>The former DLPs and District leadership have been attentive and active in the area of support for every Brother against whom allegations of child abuse have been made.</i> <i>They meet with him as soon as he receives an allegation to discuss and decide with him who he wishes to be his advisor. They then arrange for that person to be put in place.</i> <i>Leadership offers him professional counselling.</i> <i>Leadership offers him professional legal aid.</i></p>
<p><b>13. The Child Safeguarding Committee must develop an annual Child Safeguarding Plan for the De La Salle Brothers and oversee its implementation.</b></p>	<p><b><i>In place.</i></b></p>



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<b>Sisters of Nazareth, Irish Region</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action - Progress</b>
<p><b>1. Recommendation</b> <b>The Regional Superior must ensure that the Sisters of Nazareth sign up to and implement <i>Safeguarding Children – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016</i>, and comprehensively address the Congregation’s responsibilities for providing safe environments; responding to the needs of complainants; and managing and supporting any Sister who is believed to have harmed a child in any way.</b></p>	<p><b><u>MOU:</u></b> <i>Sr. Cora McHale, the Regional Superior, on behalf of Sisters of Nazareth, Irish Region has signed the MOU with Coimirce on 14/09/2016.</i> <i>The Sisters of Nazareth, Irish Region has fully implemented the Safeguarding Children-Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.</i></p> <p><b><u>Responsibilities for Providing Safe Environments:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>We have already displayed the ‘one church policy’ in all five nursing homes in the region with relevant contact details to contact in the event of a child protection concern.</i></li><li>2. <i>We have established a Regional Safeguarding Office to monitor all safeguarding work in the Region. It includes the DLP, DDLP and a Safeguarding Officer. The Office is directly under the supervision of the Regional Superior.</i></li><li>3. <i>There is a Safeguarding Committee for the Region that includes a Chairperson, a Secretary and four other members. It convenes three times a year to discuss about safeguarding children strategies in the region and to advice on safeguarding children related to the region. (Ongoing)</i></li><li>4. <i>Safeguarding children training is taking place in all the Nazareth Nursing Homes in the Region to give awareness about the importance of child protection protocol. This training is centrally monitored by the Regional Safeguarding Office (Ongoing)</i></li><li>5. <i>The Regional Safeguarding Office published an information leaflet; Safeguarding Children: A Simple Guide, for all the employees in the Region which describes the steps to be taken in case of a child protection concern.</i></li><li>6. <i>As part of sharing the safeguarding news in all the Nazareth Houses in the Irish Region, we have a</i></li></ol>





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	<p><i>newsletter 'Cosaint' which is published three times a year.</i></p> <p><b><u>Responding to the needs of complainants:</u></b> <i>We also send a personal letter to all complainants on behalf of the Sisters of Nazareth Irish Region as soon as we receive an allegation against the Sisters of Nazareth or its members. We also inform the client or his/her representative regarding the facilities available such as counselling or engaging personally with them.</i></p> <p><b><u>Managing and supporting a respondent:</u></b> <i>As part of our responsibility of care we always support our community members, against whom an allegation is raised, by way of arranging legal support for them and offering them services to suit their needs.</i></p>
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<b>Norbertines</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action- Progress</b>
<b><u>1.</u> The Prelate Administrator of the Norbertines ensures that discussions with Tusla in Co. Cavan are held regularly to identify whether any child protection concerns arise from the continued residence of members of the Canonry in Holy Trinity House. In the event of any such concerns being identified, he should work with Tusla to fully address these.</b>	<i>The TULSA office in Cavan town is not aware of any recent allegations made against Norbertine members living at Holy Trinity House. TULSA, Dublin is continuing their investigation into allegations made against Kevin Smith. To date TULSA have not indicated when this investigation will be completed.</i>
<b><u>2.</u> The Prelate Administrator of the Norbertines ensures that any member of the Canonry on the island of Ireland who is in any form of ministry, in a diocese or institution, is aware of, trained in and is compliant with the relevant Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures that apply to that location.</b>	<i>There are 3 Irish Norbertines in active ministry (2 in the Republic of Ireland and 1 in Northern Ireland). All three have received child protection training through the respective diocese and are vetted by the diocese. They are aware of the policies and procedures that apply to their respective jurisdiction. Copies of their training are kept on file at Holy Trinity House.</i>
<b><u>3.</u> The Prelate Administrator, in conjunction with the Abbot General and his Definitors, reviews the response to complainants made by the Irish Canonry to date, and develops a Pastoral Care Plan to give direction to a continued and proactive response into the future.</b>	<i>A member of the community was appointed by the Fr. William to serve as a Pastoral Caregiver to those abused by members of the community. Included in this overall care plan is ongoing professional counselling provided by Towards Healing and other agencies.</i>



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<b>Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Sisters</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action- Progress</b>
<b>1. The Province Leader in conjunction with the designated officer should ensure that all complaints of abuse are notified to the civil authorities, An Garda Siochana, Tusla and the NBSCCCI in a timely fashion.</b>	<i>We are committed to doing this and this continues to be our practice.</i>
<b>2. The Province Leader and relevant personnel must attend induction training for the Catholic Church's new policy and standards in 2016 and attend regular national child safeguarding training relevant to their roles. The Province leader should also ensure that all personnel who hold safeguarding roles within the Province, including members of the safeguarding committee receive recognised training and support for the role they hold.</b>	<i>The Province Leader and all relevant personnel attended induction training on the 2016 standards. We continue to be committed to ensuring that all relevant personnel avail of safeguarding training to keep updated. We have sponsored one employee for training as a trainer and are currently planning internal safeguarding training at province level. All sisters working in parishes or with other organisations receive safeguarding training in their workplace. Support is provided for those holding safeguarding roles through regular team meetings, team approach to matters as they arise, and access to consultants relevant to their roles.</i>
<b>3. The Province Leader should consider formally joining the NBSCCCI's National Case Management Committee for independent advice on the management of cases.</b>	<i>This recommendation was given serious consideration by the province leadership team. It was decided, for now, not to formally join the NBSCCCI's National Case Management committee. However we are committed to continuing our current practice of seeking the advice of independent consultants on case management.</i>
<b>4. The Province Leader should formally establish the child safeguarding committee and the role of safeguarding co-coordinator.</b>	<i>When the audit was carried out, sisters and staff of both RGS and OLC had already begun to meet and form the child safeguarding committee. This committee meets regularly. Our policies and procedures have been integrated for consistency throughout the congregation. We have not yet appointed a child safeguarding coordinator but plan to do so in the coming weeks.</i>



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**  
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

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