

Complainants and Respondents - the focus of National Child Safeguarding Conference

14 October 2016

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) held its National Child Safeguarding Conference on Thursday and Friday (13th & 14th October) in Tullamore. Attended by child safeguarding delegates from dioceses and religious orders the conference focused on some of the most complex areas of child safeguarding and was addressed by an individual who experienced child abuse about what happened to them.

“We must always keep the people who have been abused as children in mind when we deal with safeguarding in the Church,” said Teresa Devlin, CEO, NBSCCCI. “That’s why we were so happy to have a complainant talk to us.

We also wanted to address the needs of those against whom allegations have been made, so sessions also looked at the challenges posed by the need to protect children while also upholding the principle that the accused is innocent unless proven guilty.

This conference has served to embed further both the knowledge and the practice requirements of the Standards for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, as revised , updated and adopted in March this year said John Morgan , Chairman of the Board.

The conference was also given an update on the work of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors from Teresa Kettlekamp, a presentation on ‘Communicating the Church’s Safeguarding Message’ from Ms Breda O’Brien and a session on ‘Participating with Young People to Communicate the Church’s Safeguarding Message’ presented by young people nominated by the Sisters of Mercy Northern Province.

ENDS

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