

DIocese OF ARGYLL AND THE ISLES
POLICY: SUPERVISION IN SAFEGUARDING

In the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles we consider keeping children and vulnerable adults safe as integral to our Christian way of life. For us safeguarding is natural. Since safeguarding is at the heart of who we are and what we do everyone has a role to play.

Successfully implementing our safeguarding policies can be time consuming. Due to the nature of safeguarding certain aspects of our work can sometimes be emotionally draining. Therefore, the Diocese takes its duty of care seriously and strives to offer all participants support.

1. Parishioners and Wider Society. Our parishioners, their families and wider society have been shocked and hurt when instances of abuse have occurred within the Church and when the response was inadequate. The Diocese implements In God's Image v2 and, to reassure people, an annual message from the bishop is read during Sunday Mass while regular updates are communicated through social media and parish newsletters.
2. Clergy. Our parish priests are responsible for the implementation of IGlv2 in their parishes. They are supported by annual training, regular guidance and updates from the diocese. Safeguarding is covered in Clergy Assemblies twice a year. A dedicated SharePoint has been created for ease of access for relevant information. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team is very approachable. When a cleric has been approached by a survivor (whether Church or non-Church related) a member of the Safeguarding Leadership Team (SLT) will enquire how they are. If the cleric is struggling counselling will be offered.
3. Parish Safeguarding Coordinators (PSCs). PSCs have a crucial role in supporting the clergy in implementing IGlv2 across our parishes. To reduce any feelings of isolation the diocese regularly communicates with PSCs offering guidance and support throughout the year, including help with the Parish Audits. A dedicated SharePoint has been created for ease

of access for relevant information. The final section of the Diocesan Safeguarding Day is dedicated to support of PSCs.

4. Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Team (DSAG). DSAG ensures that the diocese implements IGlv2. A dedicated SharePoint has been created for ease of access for relevant information. DSAG meet quarterly. The Team is friendly and self-supportive. If any participant was struggling a member of the SLT would speak with them and, if necessary, counselling would be offered.
5. Diocesan Risk Assessment Team (DRAMT). DRAMT advises the bishop regarding cases, blemished PVGs etc. Members are drawn from relevant professional fields and are very experienced. DRAMT has received training. However, at times material discussed can be upsetting, especially in a small diocese, and the SLT will support DRAMT members and, if necessary, offer counselling.
6. Safeguarding Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT consists of the Bishop, Vicar Episcopal for Safeguarding, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and Safeguarding Secretary. Much of their work is strategic, which is then presented to DSAG as well as supporting diocesan volunteers in their roles. The DSA receives support from peers, which is encouraged by the Bishop and VE. Except for the Safeguarding Secretary, the SLT is intrinsically involved in cases. This can be very stressful. However, the SLT provides regular mutual support and counselling would be offered to any member who needed it.

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