

Order of Friar Servants of Mary (OSM) Province of the Isles – Prior Provincial’s response to Audit recommendations.

April 2015

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Prior Provincial should consult immediately with the NBSCCCI about the most efficient process for completing a viable interim safeguarding policy for the Servites in Ireland pending the publication of the NBSCCCI review. The interim policy needs to address Standard 1 *A Written Policy on Keeping Children Safe*, with particular reference to Criteria 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8 and 1.9 above.

UPDATE

The Order of Friar Servants of Mary, Province of the Isles, in consultation with the NBSCCCI produced its Interim Child Safeguarding Policy. It was examined and approved by the NBSCCCI. It was signed off by the Provincial on the 16th November 2014 and is currently the operational guidance document for OSMs in the island of Ireland.

RECOMMENDATION 2.

The Prior Provincial should ensure that Criteria 2.2, 2.4 and 2.5 of Standard 2 *How to Respond to Child Protection Allegations and Suspicions*, are addressed in the interim safeguarding policy for Ireland.

UPDATE

2.2 See Interim Child Safeguarding Policy

2.4 See Section 4.1 Appendix A Form 3, p.p. 56-58; Section 8.2 re case file records, 8.2 pp. 21-23; 8.B re management and storage of records, p. 23. Section 10 on Confidentiality/Data Protection pp. 27-31, including complying with legislation.

2.5 See Section 6.Complaints Procedure, p.15.

RECOMMENDATION 3.

The Prior Provincial needs to review the safeguarding structure of the Servite Order in order to better align it with the implementation of the NBSCCCI safeguarding standards in Ireland and to develop and strengthen the area of prevention (2.3)

UPDATE

2.3: The OSM Safeguarding structures have been revised to strengthen the area of Prevention. This is illustrated by the Safeguarding map on page 16 of the Interim Policy.

Two separate appointments have been made i.e DLP and Safeguarding co-ordinator Prevention, each with clearly defined roles (Sections 7.1 p. 17 and 7.10 p. 19) as well as a new structure established which refers only to the Island of Ireland i.e. the SCI (7.12, p.19) together with clearly distinct and newly defined related parts of the structure (pp.16-20).

RECOMMENDATION 4.

The Prior Provincial should ensure that the safeguarding files are structured and organized as recommended in NBSCCCI guidance and standards document, *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland*.

UPDATE

There are four case files – three of which are historical and one current. Case narratives have been prepared for the three historical case files and the current case file records are set out in accordance with the recommended structure of the NBSCCCI. The Resource 16 – Child Protection Recoding Form is currently in use.

RECOMMENDATION 5.

The Prior Provincial should ensure that Standard 3 *Preventing Harm to Children* is fully addressed in the Servites interim policy for Ireland.

UPDATE

See Interim Policy as follows re.

Safe recruitment and vetting in line with legislation and best practice: Sections 11, 13 pp. 32 to 35

Codes of behaviour: Section 14 pp. 37 to 38.

Operating safe activities for children: Section 15 pp. 39 to 46.

RECOMMENDATION 6.

The Prior Provincial should ensure that a training needs assessment and training plan for safeguarding children and young people is put in place.

UPDATE

See Policy Section 13, p. 36 and attached OSM Draft Three year Strategic Plan 2015-2018, to include Training Plan.

RECOMMENDATION 7

The Prior Provincial should ensure that Standard 5 *Communicating the Safeguarding Message* is fully addressed in their interim safeguarding policy for Ireland.

UPDATE

See Section 20, p. 52 re. Communicating the Safeguarding message.

RECOMMENDATION 8.

The Prior Provincial should ensure that the Order addresses the issue of how to respond to children suspected of suffering abuse (6.3) and develops a policy and communications material for survivor/victim outreach and engagement.

UPDATE

See Interim Policy Section 9, p. 26, re. Access to Advice and Pastoral Support.

New Notices have been posted in public parts of monasteries and cards developed and made available with Contact details of Designated Liaison Person and Support Services etc. Website updated in January 2015 with greater prominence given to Safeguarding and Newsletters (Prior's Corner) carry items regarding the Safeguarding message.

RECOMMENDATION 9.

The Prior Provincial should ensure that the review of the safeguarding structure, in conjunction with Recommendation 3, leads to the strengthening of the local safeguarding committees and the development and implementation of a three year safeguarding plan.

UPDATE

See response to Recommendation 3 above. The membership of both LSCs have been strengthened in Benburb and Dublin with the membership extended in both locations. See also attached OSM Three year Strategic Plan 2015-2018, to include Training Plan, it was adopted by the Safeguarding Committee for the island of Ireland (SCI) meeting (April 15th, 2015) and is in the process of being implemented by the LSCs.

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