

Review of Safeguarding Practice

Congregation/Order: Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (ocso)

<u>Recommendation</u>	Action- Progress
<p>1. The Abbots of the five Cistercian monasteries should ensure that the child safeguarding policies are amended to establish that all personnel transferring to and from monasteries are subject of a formal statement which addresses any child safeguarding concerns. This should be done on an interim basis pending the common Church child safeguarding policy.</p>	<p>This has been implemented. The following paragraph has been added to the present policy documents and will also be included in all new policy documents: In the case of a monk from another monastery who transfers to or from, or resides in a monastery in Ireland for a period of more than 6 weeks, a formal statement from his superior which addresses any child safeguarding concerns is required in advance.</p>
<p>2. The Abbot of one monastery should ensure that there is a filing system for recording the management of monks against whom allegations are made, according to NBSCCCI recommended format.</p>	<p>This has been implemented.</p>
<p>3. The Abbots of the five Cistercian monasteries should give consideration to the feasibility of a more centralized safeguarding structure featuring a single child safeguarding committee and a single Designated Liaison Person to better integrate safeguarding practice across the monasteries, as suggested in the bullet points above.</p>	<p>The Irish Cistercian Abbots are committed to establishing a more centralized safeguarding structure including a common Safeguarding Policy, a common DLP and a common Safeguarding Committee. As noted on page 5 of the Review, the Irish Cistercian monasteries are involved in ongoing discussions concerning a new organisational and governance structure. It is envisaged that a new structure for some of the monasteries will be in place before the end of 2016. When these new structures are in place a more centralised safeguarding structure will be put in place.</p>



<p>4. The Abbots of the five Cistercian monasteries should discuss with the NBSCCCI the most efficient way of conducting vetting throughout all their monasteries.</p>	<p>Discussions have taken place with NBSCCCI concerning the most efficient way of conducting vetting and the NBSCCCI are in agreement with the suggested approach.</p>
<p>5. The Abbots of the five Cistercian monasteries should undertake a training needs assessment across all monasteries, and consider the use of approved diocesan trainers in the delivery of programmes.</p>	<p>At the conclusion of the ongoing discussion mentioned in the response to Recommendation 3 (above) a training needs assessment will be undertaken. All training will be delivered by approved diocesan trainers.</p>
<p>6. The Abbots of the five Cistercian monasteries should consider a common statement on how safeguarding information will be communicated across all monasteries.</p>	<p>As mentioned in response to Recommendation 3 (above), the Irish Cistercian Abbots are committed to establishing a more centralized safeguarding structure including a common Safeguarding Policy, a common DLP and a common Safeguarding Committee. It is envisaged that this will be in place before the end of 2016 and will include a common approach to how safeguarding information will be communicated across all monasteries.</p>
<p>7. The Abbots of the five Cistercian monasteries need to state how their accountability for child safeguarding is to be discharged, and there needs to be an annual safeguarding report and plan for each of the monasteries, or for all of the monasteries, reporting data on safeguarding events, on adherence to the policies and on progress in developmental areas such as communication, vetting, and training.</p>	<p>As mentioned in response to Recommendation 3 (above), the Irish Cistercian Abbots are committed to establishing a more centralized safeguarding structure including a common Safeguarding Policy, a common DLP and a common Safeguarding Committee. It is envisaged that this will be in place before the end of 2016 and will include a statement on how those with responsibility for safeguarding discharge their accountability and an annual safeguarding report and plan for each of the monasteries.</p>