



## Review of Safeguarding Practice

### Diocese/Order: Divine Word Missionaries

| <b>Recommendation</b>  | <b>Action- Progress</b>   |
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| <p><u>1.</u> That the provincial ensures that the society's child safeguarding policy and procedures complies with the requirements of the statutory agencies and is then printed and distributed within the IBP and circulated to all stakeholders and partners in the society's work within the IBP. The provincial further needs to ensure that all members sign the document stating that they have received, read and undertake to adhere to and follow the child safeguarding policy and procedure of SVD IBP.</p> | <p>Complete</p>   |
| <p><u>2.</u> That the Provincial Council develops a system for a formal and comprehensive handover from an outgoing provincial to an incoming new provincial that includes a full sharing of all information in relation to members about whom there are child safeguarding concerns.</p>  | <p>The current Provincial's term of office runs until May 2016. A protocol for handover to new Provincial administration has been devised. A summary follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a period of three months between the election of a new Provincial and him fully assuming the role. Over these months, he will attend the Provincial Council meetings. Safeguarding and case management is discussed at these meetings.</li> <li>• The Designated Person will remain in post across Provincial administrations to ensure that practice is kept consistent</li> <li>• The DP will brief the new Provincial on all cases</li> <li>• The incoming Provincial will read all case files at the earliest stage on</li> </ul> |



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|   | <p>assuming the role</p> <p>It should be noted that over the last 2 years there has been a concerted effort to have child safeguarding prioritised as an issue within the Province. It has been attended to at Assemblies and other gatherings. All members have become more aware of the issues facing the SVD in this area.</p>   |
| <p>3. That the provincial actively seeks and ensures a review of all relevant case file material that needs to be on the society's case management files, from whatever sources both within SVD IBP and elsewhere.</p>  | <p>Complete. Where information could be sourced on members from other Provinces, this was done. Information was also sourced from Granada archives.</p>   |
| <p>4. That the provincial as a matter of urgency ensures that detailed risk assessments and risk management plans are conducted, put in place and implemented for all SVD IBP members about whom there are child safeguarding concerns. These plans should be implemented with the knowledge, agreement and support of the relevant police and child protection social service departments.</p> | <p>Risk management plans were mostly in place at the time of the review. Any outstanding work was completed immediately after. Safety (risk management) plans have been provided to the local Tusla care areas. The Gardai are aware of the cases and the existence of safety plans.</p>  |
| <p>5. That the provincial ensures that the training needs identified in the ongoing internal audit are quickly met and that the training goals included in the Child Safeguarding Plan drawn up by the designated person are resourced and achieved within the identified timeframes.</p>   | <p>This work is ongoing. The Provincial office maintains a training audit. All members in active ministry have completed core Church safeguarding training and this is provided on a rolling basis. A series of workshops on the revised SVD Child Safeguarding Policy were completed and attended by all members. Role specific training has been availed of and more will be facilitated in the Summer.</p> |
| <p>6. That the provincial, in consultation with the Provincial Council, designated person and the NBSCCCI select and appoint a group of</p>   | <p>A safeguarding committee has recently been established. Up until the forming of this group, the designated person acted as safeguarding coordinator and fulfilled the</p>  |



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| knowledgeable, skilled and motivated people who will act as a safeguarding committee for the SVD IBP for an initial period of three years.  | functions of a safeguarding committee (policy review, training, self-audits).  |
| 7. That the provincial and the Provincial Council put plans in place for the orientation and briefing of SVD priests and brothers who return to Ireland for holidays or to retire.  | <p>For returning SVD's (for holiday, to retire or to return to work in Ireland), a system is in place whereby the Provincial seeks a testimonial from the Provincial of the country in which the man is living. The man is given an induction pack which includes the SVD IBP child safeguarding policy and he is advised of the NBSCCCI review report and told to read it. The designated person facilitates an awareness raising workshop with returning men, when there are a few awaiting this.</p> <p>The safeguarding committee are taking responsibility for this area.</p> |
| 8 The provincial should convene a small working group to examine how child safeguarding communications can be developed, strengthened and supported within the SVD IBP and the wider society and to develop an appropriate, comprehensive and effective Child Safeguarding Communications Policy. | <p>An informal review of current communication approaches has taken place, looking at methods of communicating internally (newsletters, workshops, assemblies) and externally (newsletters, website). The safeguarding committee will take responsibility for the formal review and will invite SVD's in to the discussion who have expertise in the area of communications. This will be complete by July 2015.</p>   |
| 9 That the Provincial Council of SVD IBP request the assistance of other Church authorities and of the NBSCCCI in developing a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of victims of clerical child sexual abuse by members of the society.   | <p>Our response to victims of abuse is outlined in our child safeguarding policy. The review referred to how the SVD need to consider the needs of victims and how to reach out to victims in foreign countries. Both the designated person and the Provincial are part of peer consultation groups and will consult with peers (other missionary congregations) around overcoming the difficulties here. Relevant professional advice has also been sought in this area and we will continue to do</p>  |



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| 10 That the provincial and Provincial Council members, with the assistance of the designated person, other Irish Church authorities and the NBSCCCI plan and resource structures, systems and processes to deal with the challenges that will be posed in the future by returning SVD priests and brothers about whom child safeguarding concerns have arisen in other countries. | The current system for SVD members returning to Ireland from other countries is that the Provincial in the country they are leaving must provide a testimonial to state that there are no concerns around this man regarding children and vulnerable people. If the Provincial responded to say that there are/were concerns, the Provincial, his Council and the designated person would consider the case in full to assess whether it is appropriate that the person comes to Ireland. If the person is from Ireland, there is a responsibility on the IBP to allow him to return. The exact same procedure for responding to concerns against IBP members outlined in our child safeguarding policy would apply to returning members, including reporting the concerns to our statutory authorities and devising a safety plan. |
| 11. That the provincial request the designated person to develop a written case management filing policy and methodology, with the assistance of the NBSCCCI.   | An internal document is complete. This will be reviewed to ensure it is in line with the NBSCCCI revised Standards and Guidance when published.   |
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