



# Newsbrief...

SPRING 2010

News, updates and resources in Education, Safeguarding Trust and Children's Ministry

## Training: New Safeguarding Trust Trainers...



**Fourteen volunteers have been trained to deliver Safeguarding Trust training to parish workers at a local level.**

The trainers cover all of the NI dioceses and will provide training in parishes where the panel, for whatever reason, is unable to deliver training to workers.

All of the trainers bring a great wealth of experience and expertise and the Board of Education NI appreciates their support.

*The trainers are:*

### ARMAGH DIOCESE

Leslie Johnston

### CONNOR DIOCESE

Alan Brown, Sarah Hutton, Victor McCabe, Amanda McGall, Jean Pullins

### DERRY DIOCESE

Neville Barnes, Ruth Baxter, Shaun McCormick, Godfrey Young

### DOWN AND DROMORE DIOCESE

Vivien Abernethy, Christine Allister, Colin McMordie, Stephen Doherty

### CLOGHER DIOCESE

Canon Bobby Riddell, Rev Mark Watson

The trainers can provide Safeguarding Trust training in individual parishes or on a rural / area deanery basis and must be 'booked' by contacting:

**Margaret Yarr, CPO NI**

**Tel: 028 9023 1202**

**Email: [cponi@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:cponi@ireland.anglican.org)**



## New Training Package...



**A new updated Powerpoint presentation in Safeguarding Trust has been designed and developed by the CPO NI. This presentation contains the material required for Safeguarding Trust training for workers.**

The presentation is part of a training package and comes complete with exercises, scenarios and comprehensive trainer's notes. Please contact the CPO by email: [cponi@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:cponi@ireland.anglican.org) if you would like the training package emailed to you.

## Parish Panel Training...

**A series of panel training events is planned in each diocese in the coming months.**

Panel training consists of two sessions - one looking at the role and responsibilities of the parish panel and the other raising awareness of child protection issues and a code of behaviour for workers. It is essential that new panel members attend both sessions.

If there are new panel members in **YOUR** parish, please send their details, and details of who they are replacing to Margaret Yarr

at [cponi@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:cponi@ireland.anglican.org) or Church of Ireland House, 61-67 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2QH. This will help facilitate the database being kept up to date.

**REMINDER:** All panel members **MUST** be AccessNI checked before commencing duties.

# AccessNI News...

## Applicants for Enhanced Disclosure Certificates can now complete their application forms on line.

AccessNI has created an active PDF application form on its website. When you click the button to get into the application form, you now have the choice of downloading it, printing it out and completing it in writing or you can complete it on the computer screen using the computer keyboard.

While the form still has to be printed out at the end of this process before it can be signed by the applicant, there are a number of real advantages to completing the form on line.

The major advantage is that forms completed in this way are more legible both to us in the Board of Education and to AccessNI's scanning system and its operators.

This will reduce the number of errors on certificates, for example where operators find it difficult to know whether the numbers 1 or 7 and 3 or 5 are being used and to distinguish between letters - given the very many unique styles of hand writing used.

Try it out yourself - see how quickly it can be typed up - and encourage your applicants to use this method.



Click onto:  
[www.accessni.gov.uk](http://www.accessni.gov.uk)

# Common Mistakes on Application Forms...

- Many application forms are still completed in blue ink - forms **must be completed in black ink**
- Incomplete address history on Page 4 - all dates must be **fully** completed over a five year period
- Position applied for on Page 7 - the position should be completed and must include a clear reference to working with children or vulnerable adults. The name of the parish and diocese should also be completed
- Signature of registered person on Page 9 - the registered person is Claire Geoghegan - so it is **she only** who signs this section



- **ALL** application forms **MUST** be accompanied by a completed **Validation Form**
- Please do not send identity documents or photocopies of identity documents to the Board of Education.

## IMPORTANT...

**Please note** that AccessNI application forms will be changing from 26th July 2010. The new application forms will be available from May 2010 but may not be used until 26th July 2010. New forms will be available from:

- The AccessNI website
- The Church of Ireland website <http://www.ireland.anglican.org> click on 'Information', then 'Policy documents', then 'Safeguarding Trust NI'
- The Board of Education

In order to ensure a smooth transition to the new form, the last date to receive an old form for processing by the Board of Education will be **Wednesday 30th June 2010**. After this date no further applications on old forms will be accepted. **Applications on new forms will be received but not processed until after 26th July 2010.**

## AccessNI Registration Number...

When applying for grant aid from Education and Library Boards, parishes are asked to supply the Church of Ireland's AccessNI registration number. This is the information you require:

The name of the **REGISTERED BODY** is:  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION NI,**  
**CHURCH OF IRELAND**  
REGISTRATION NUMBER:  
**8000000652**

## Vetting and Barring Scheme...

The Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) for NI established under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 has commenced and will be implemented in stages.

This will have a significant impact on the Church's work with children and vulnerable adults. Diocesan information sessions on the VBS are planned for September 2010.

The Board undertook a parish survey during the latter part of 2009 to estimate the numbers of individuals working with children and vulnerable adults in Church of Ireland parishes in NI.

This survey was conducted to provide data for AccessNI as well as to estimate future workloads in relation to the VBS. The survey indicated that in NI parishes, approximately 6300 adults work with children and vulnerable adults.



## Vulnerable Adults...

The Board is represented on an Advisory Group commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Services to draw up standards and guidelines for working with vulnerable adults.

It is anticipated that these documents will be completed by June 2010 and available for voluntary groups and churches to assist in the development of guidance for parish workers.

## Quiz - Test your knowledge of Safeguarding Trust...



1. The Parish Panel is a sub - committee of the Select Vestry.  
**True or False?**
2. A Panel member can be actively involved in work with children or youth organisations at parish level.  
**True or False?**
3. How often does the parish advise the diocese that **Safeguarding Trust** procedures are in place?
4. What document must be signed by workers after attending **Safeguarding Trust** training?
5. What documents should be provided to workers as part of their induction?
6. For how long must attendance records be retained?
7. Parish premises may be used by independent organisations attended by children. What document should be used to ensure good child protection practice?
8. How often is the evaluation of **Safeguarding Trust** in the parish carried out?

1. True - Safeguarding Trust, Part 2.5
2. False - Safeguarding Trust, Part 2.5
3. Annually - Safeguarding Trust, Part 2.4
4. Declaration of acceptance of Safeguarding Trust and a 'Duty to Care' Safeguarding Trust, Part 4.1 and Part 9.2.4
5. Parts 5 - 8 of Safeguarding Trust, Part 4.1
6. At least 21 years - Safeguarding Trust, Part 9.1.4 Evaluation Form Section B Record Keeping
7. The Common Protocol - Safeguarding Trust Part 9.3.1.1
8. Once every three years - Safeguarding Trust, Part 2.5

**Answers:**

# “We do indeed need co-operation not continued conflict”, say Church education spokespersons...

## A response to the comment piece on education by the deputy First Minister

As the education spokespersons of the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, we wish to put on record our intense disappointment at the tone and content of recent remarks made by the deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, MLA, in a comment piece in the Belfast Telegraph (14/04/10). We also wish to correct some particularly misleading comments contained in the article.

We deeply regret the suggestion that the transferor churches are impediments to progress in education. Of great concern to us is the way the deputy First Minister has presented transferors as obstinate and rejectionist. By misleadingly stating that “ten separate options have been proposed, explored and rejected” the impression is given that transferors have rejected realistic attempts to find solutions. Nothing could be further from the truth. The department did provide an analysis of ten options, but they themselves ruled out nine of those options immediately. On the basis of legal advice we were unable to accept the one remaining proposal, as it fell far short of treating the controlled sector and the transferring churches with equality and fairness. Having explained our reasoning, and after several months of silence, a second option was presented to us, but that too fell well short of what is required to deliver a fair and equitable settlement for the controlled sector as a whole and for the place of the protestant churches, who transferred their schools

into the control of the state, within that sector.

As spokespersons for churches who nominate representatives to Education & Library Boards, we are also greatly dismayed by the deputy First Minister’s derogatory comments in describing those Boards as “not fit for purpose”. This is insulting to the distinguished record of service provided by ELBs to all schools from all sectors in their areas and to people who are committed to working towards building a much better education system for all the children of NI. It is Board members and officers who are currently straining every sinew to enable education services to be delivered in spite of the failure of the Department of Education to find political and community consensus for its initiatives.

The transferor churches are not opposed to the principle of the establishing a single Education and Skills Authority for Northern Ireland, however, this has to be in the context of equality for all, something that Sinn Fein and the Department of Education has so far failed to satisfactorily address. As three churches, we are not alone in thinking that the original proposals for the establishment of ESA would not have treated the protestant churches fairly. Colleagues in the Roman Catholic Church have supported us in our analysis and our case has received widespread support from other political parties - not only unionist but also nationalist and those who see themselves as cross-community.

The deputy First Minister dismissively accuses transferors of simply hiding behind the slogan “what we have we

hold”. We deeply regret this slur on our integrity. What transferors are trying to hold on to are basic legal rights given to the protestant churches when they transferred their schools to state control. Surely a party such as Sinn Fein which prides itself on upholding rights and an equality agenda would understand this and do all in its power to protect and support any group which sees such rights threatened. We ask for no more than the protection of rights which other sectors enjoy. Such parity of treatment is surely part of the equality agenda that we hear so much about, especially at this election time.

Change is needed in the educational system in Northern Ireland, but it has to be the right change, delivered at the right time and implemented in the right way. To do otherwise will continue to lead to unnecessary conflict and fail to achieve the co-operation that the deputy First Minister states that he desires. The transferors are committed to joining with all other educational partners, including the Department and Sinn Fein, in seeking to build the consensus that is necessary to bring about the change that will deliver the ever improving system of education that all of our young people so clearly deserve.

### Statement issued by:

*Revd Ian W. Ellis (Secretary to the Church of Ireland Board of Education NI)*  
*Revd Trevor D. Gribben (Education Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland)*  
*Revd J. Trevor Jamieson (Northern Convenor of the Methodist Church in Ireland Board of Education)*

27th April 2010

## Contacts:

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Child Protection Officer: **Margaret Yarr** Email: [cponi@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:cponi@ireland.anglican.org)  
AccessNI Co-ordinator: **Claire Geoghegan** Email: [claire@diocoff-belfast.org](mailto:claire@diocoff-belfast.org)



Church of Ireland  
Board of Education (NI)