

Four Final Child Safeguarding Reviews Published

Embargo: 5th April 2017

The Reviews of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Brothers), the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré (Norbertines) and of the Sisters of Nazareth (Irish Region) showed substantial wrongdoing – in line with the findings of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIA) in Northern Ireland. Further, in those three cases the records relied upon were not well maintained, making the work of the reviewers challenging according to the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI).

“Our goal here was not to replicate the work of the HIAI, though, of course, there is some overlap,” explained Teresa Devlin, CEO, NBSCCCI. “The reviews of the De La Salle Brothers, Norbertines and Nazareth Sisters highlight concerns relating to weak or, on occasion, poor practice which they are now working with us to correct.”

The two congregations that amalgamated to create “Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd”, showed an evolving and proactive approach to child safeguarding.

However, all four Church bodies, have now adopted the revised Safeguarding Children Policy 2016, with three (De La Salle Brothers, Norbertines and Nazareth Sisters) having signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Board which commits them to following the Church’s standards, while the fourth, Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, is in the process of doing so.

The final four Child Safeguarding reviews, assessed against the Church’s 2009 Safeguarding Standards contained in *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland* (2009) were conducted in 2015/6, but publication was deferred due to the statutory Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIAI) taking place in Northern Ireland. The National Board agreed not to release the four reports back to the religious orders in question until the HIA had reported.

The NBSCCCI will work with all four congregations to improve practice and to support them in implementing the recommendations made during their reviews.

ENDS

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