

7

STANDARD 7

Quality Assuring Compliance

Quality assurance procedures are a systematic method of assessing the extent to which the previous six child safeguarding standards are implemented at all levels within the Dominican Province of Ireland. They are designed as part of our commitment to ensuring that a process of continuous improvement takes place.

7.1 Safeguarding Committee

The role of the safeguarding committee is to oversee the implementation of Standards 1, 5, 6 and 7.

In relation to Standard 7, the safeguarding committee is responsible for

- ◇ Producing and reviewing the three-year child safeguarding plan of how to maintain the seven standards across the Dominican Province of Ireland.
- ◇ Liaising with the Local Safeguarding Representatives (LSRs): in parishes which are not assigned a diocesan parish, the local prior or superior may fill this role. Their task is to ensure the completion of a local safeguarding audit, and to identify areas where guidance and support on policy or practice are needed.
- ◇ Ensuring that an annual safeguarding report on Standards 1, 5 and 6 is provided to the Provincial.

7.2. Safeguarding Strategic Plan

The safeguarding strategic plan is to assess the effectiveness of the steps being taken to keep children safe. The purpose of this internal child safeguarding plan is to set out what, how, who and in what time-frame key elements of child safeguarding practices and procedures are going to be met by the Dominican Order.

7.3. A training plan and communications plan

Resources: It is important to set specific and realistic objectives linked to identified allocated resources.

Implementation: The Provincial, through the safeguarding committee, should identify clear time-frames for implementation, which should take account of the completion of the local safeguarding audits.

Review and evaluation: It is important that the three-year plan sets clear dates for review of each

specific objective outlined in the plan. These review dates should be achieved on an annual basis, and reviews should take account of the outcomes of the annual local safeguarding audit.

7.4. Quality Assurance

Quality assurance is achieved by applying three methods

1. Annual self-audit scheme carried out locally but coordinated by the safeguarding committee
2. Assessing compliance during systematic visits by the DLP to Dominican priorities and other centres.
3. External audits by the NBSCCCI and statutory agencies e.g., Tusla/H SCT
4. Commitment to ongoing review of policy and procedures.