

## Hurt By Abuse

We cannot ignore the ongoing hurt, pain and despair which many people are experiencing in Rotherham and beyond. If you are affected in any way and have not been to get support, or need a safe place to have a rant, please do contact the office and we will try to help. There will shortly be some Hurt By Abuse awareness sessions in Chesterfield. If you want specific training about sexual exploitation in your parish, please contact the Safeguarding Administrator, Jo Pearson, on 0114 2566453 or by emailing [jpearson@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:jpearson@hallam-diocese.com).



In Rotherham we are working with a new Interfaith Safeguarding Group to try and formulate a consistent, united response to these issues. We need to ask "What would Jesus do?" And "What can we do?"

Look out for an advertisement for new Hurt by Abuse Support Facilitator.

See also the safeguarding section of the website for an interim report for the Hurt By Abuse project in Hallam, which is the forerunner of a new national project.

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## Contact Us

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HALLAM CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION

Newsletter for our Volunteers

March 2015

# CHURCHSAFE

## Introduction

2014 was a year of change for us all as we welcomed Bishop Ralph Heskett in summer of 2014. Bishop Ralph is already well on board with our Safeguarding endeavours and will host the annual Safeguarding event on 26<sup>th</sup> September in Sheffield. Please put the date in your diary. We are delighted that two of our Safeguarding Representatives, Dave Coefield from Corpus Christi Barnsley and a new Rep Modesta Chindeka from St Catherine's Sheffield (pictured above), were present at his installation.



There have also been changes at the offices of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service. The Birmingham offices have moved to Bishops Conference London and a new staff and Director will be appointed. We know that many of you have benefited from direct contact with the CSAS staff and hope that the good service provided by the previous team will continue. Your prayer for a good recruitment process and successful outcome welcomed.

*The best protection of children is good practice which creates a culture of safety, openness and trust, for the welfare and nurturing of the child.*

## What's New in Safeguarding

If you haven't already seen it, check the updated CSAS "Creating a Safe Environment" procedures on the website. Safeguarding is much more than taking action after someone has been hurt or abused and all volunteers can play their part in safety.

The Health and Safety Toolkit is being rolled out and many parishes now have their own Health and Safety Representative. Please find out who yours is! Tom Garrud at the Diocesan Property Department is leading on this. This training makes the links between health and safety and safeguarding.

A new online safeguarding resource pack is about to be launched, as is an online training package which will be available to everyone in the Catholic community and administered via Jo Pearson, the Safeguarding Administrator. Watch this space for another first!

The majority of Local Safeguarding Reps, Parish Priests, Deacons and some Religious members of our community have now completed the "mandatory" accredited training on safeguarding and produced some excellent new guidelines for Clergy and laity working together to promote safeguarding. We are particularly grateful to a group of clergy including Fr John Adikwu and Fr John Mwadike (Maltby), Fr Desmond Edozie (St Peter in Chains), Fr Michael Edem and Fr Joseph Chukwidi Okeke (St Marie's), who are all new to the Diocese and who brought vim, vigour and new ideas.

## Good Practice Report

The Parish of Holy Rood recently hosted the first of a series of sessions called "Living the Gospel". 20 people, including the Parish Priest Fr Boyle, attended to share information and ideas about good practice in work with children and young people remembering that "Jesus honoured children, valued them, healed them... when adults were annoyed because they were making a noise in the temple, he described them as offering perfect praise. He was unequivocal in condemnation of those who hurt children and endangered their ability to trust" (*Ecumenical Safeguarding Partnership Sheffield*).

## Report from Annual Event 2014

The annual event October 2014 welcomed the Children's Commissioner Dr Maggie Atkinson, a Catholic lass from Barnsley, who inspired with her reminder of what children need to be safe and what we should all be vigilant for in trying to safeguard children:



- Who are the hungry children and are there parents hungry too?
- Who is the loner who doesn't want to play with others?
- Which children wear long sleeves to cover their bruises?
- Which child kicks off in the classroom?
- Which child has a sleepover but really doesn't want to go home in the morning?
- Which children aren't potty trained by the time they are in Reception?
- Which children act out violently?
- Which children display overtly sexualised behaviour in play?

"We also need to watch for the parents whose idea of parenting is screaming at their child face to face at 6 inches, because that too is abuse."

A summary of her address can be found on the website at <http://www.hallam-diocese.com/safeguarding-what-is-it/events-and-news>.

Mrs Julia Codman, E-Safety Manager for the Sheffield Safeguarding Board spoke about e-safety, a particularly important topic in the light of yet more information about the extent to which e-technology may help to groom young people for sexual exploitation, radicalisation or other purposes. But an important message was that **safe** use of technology can improve and enhance the lives of young people, and help maintain positive relationships in which they can feel included. See the Diocesan safeguarding section for a summary of the advice provided by Julia.

The event was attended by 68 people including Local Safeguarding Reps and Clergy, some members of the public and other volunteers in Ministry in the Diocese.