

Diocese of Hallam Safeguarding Commission
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Anne Ashton

Anne is sadly stepping down from the Safeguarding Administrator Role. The workload has greatly increased over time and she wishes to have more time with her family - not in the 'political' sense - she really means it! Without her efforts from the beginning Hallam would not have the reputation it has in the Safeguarding world. We all thank her and wish her well.....

Shots on the day



DIOCESE OF HALLAM SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION
Newsletter for our Volunteers
December 2012

CHURCHSAFE

Annual Conference Edition



News from the Commission....

CSAS now requires LSR representatives on the Commission. After recent competitive interviews with a high standard of applicants Cath Ratcliffe and Dave Coefield were appointed to the Commission. They will be working together to advise the Commission on how best to support Local Safeguarding Representatives. They each also have a specific portfolio, Cath leading on the prevention agenda and Dave on training. Sister Clare, Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Sisters of Mercy has also joined the Commission and will be a great resource.

Many parishes will be blessed with Religious Orders working within their community. As part of the One Church Safeguarding mission there are new requirements to ensure collaboration between Dioceses and Religious Orders. Two Religious Orders have affiliated with what we hope to rechristen the Hallam Catholic Safeguarding Commission. As part of that development work Lisa Markham is looking forward to her first visit to the Sisters at Kirkedge, whose mission of contemplation and prayer has helped many in distress.

The Commission Members thank all volunteers for their valuable contribution to the work of the Church and pray that they will enjoy a Holy and Happy Festive Season with family and friends

Annual Diocesan Safeguarding Event

This year's event took place on 17th November at St Bernard's C.H.S. in Rotherham. It was well-attended by LSRs and Volunteers from parishes across the Diocese and was graced by the presence of our own Bishop John, as well as Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton, a member of the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission.

Following an opening prayer from Bishop John, Judge Michael Murphy opened the proceedings with a warm and encouraging account of progress in Safeguarding in Hallam Diocese over the past few years. He felt strongly that there had been quite a change in attitude towards it in the sense that the desire for 'action' is now coming more from inside the community rather than as something being imposed from the outside. The Diocesan Commission is very active and its work has now become wide and varied as safeguarding has acquired a developing profile nationally and internationally (e.g. Lisa Markham was recently in Poland advising on this issue). Hallam is also involved in the national training pilot, with a group of 40 Clergy and LSRs undertaking the pilot training programme and contributing to its



evaluation as a possible training facility for all volunteers and clergy. Judge Murphy envisages an exciting future with further development and change to be addressed; he thanked all volunteers for their work, and his hope for the year is to visit all the Deaneries of the Diocese.

'Round-the-table' discussions also took place in the form of quiz sheets designed to test out and firm up the knowledge of those present in a session led by Lisa Markham - happily it was non-threatening and Ofqual were not involved!



One of the highlights of the day was the performance by the **Geese Theatre Group**. With a title of "It Doesn't Happen Here" it took us through the various stages of an imaginary yet fairly typical Domestic Abuse situation within a small family group with links to the Church community. They raised the issues around recognising the signs of abuse and of acting (or not) upon them, and portrayed strongly the effects of these situations on all involved. At each stage the performance was paused and we were asked to discuss in groups and give our reactions to the various cameo - situations with additional inputs from the caste of actors.



Masks played a very significant part in the production, illustrating clearly how we all in a sense have 'masks' which enable us to change how we portray ourselves to others in differing situations, and demonstrating how important it is for the 'mask' to be lifted in order that abuse situations may be successfully resolved.

Later Fr John Aveyard (Clergy Safeguarding Adviser for Leeds) gave a feisty and very interesting address showing how the life and work of the Clergy had changed over recent years as the policies and procedures for Safeguarding had developed.

The final session of the day was led by John Cape (Commission Member) who took questions from the floor, and also introduced the two new members recently appointed to the Commission. The day closed with a thoughtful 'Liturgy of Safeguarding' led by Fr. Des Sexton.