



DIocese OF GALLOWAY
Safeguarding Office

GALLOWAY SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

OCTOBER 2024

Continuing the good practice of previous years, the Safeguarding Community in Galloway Diocese embraces the Safeguarding Standards outlined within *'In God's Image'*. Our group of volunteers in ministries across the Diocese continue to be safely recruited and trained, and these volunteers work in our parishes, schools, and communities, promoting a culture of safeguarding. We are grateful to them.

Through the continued dedication of the volunteer and training network, the Diocese provides safer recruitment for all those who engage in specific ministries, for example as Eucharistic Ministers taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound, or as members of the St Vincent De Paul Society or the Legion of Mary.

We are in the process of finalising our Diocesan Action Plan that is born out of this year's Annual Audit, which was independently undertaken by the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA). The findings and recommendations of the Audit are being reviewed and implemented by the Diocesan Risk Assessment Management Team (DRAMT), the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group (DSAG) and the Safeguarding Operational Core Team (SOCT).

The Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA) continue to work with the Archdioceses and Dioceses in Scotland in the key core activities of Survivor Engagement, Education and Training, Safeguarding and Audit, Finance and Remuneration and Policy and Resources.

In the Diocese of Galloway, an appeal was made for new volunteers to join the numbers of experienced Parish Safeguarding Coordinators (PSC's). As with previous appeals, this call was answered with generosity, and we have now strengthened our PSC numbers in the Parishes.

This year we had a Training and Development Day for Parish Safeguarding Coordinators and Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors, held on 05 October 2024. This was a welcome opportunity for volunteers in the Safeguarding Community to come together and learn about how Safeguarding is being managed and developed in each of our Parishes.

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On Saturday 16 November 2024, hundreds of individuals active in the Safeguarding Community from across Scotland will be meeting at Strathclyde University for the Annual Safeguarding Conference. As with previous years, the Conference provides not only a platform for learning, but also an opportunity for the entire National, and some international members of the Safeguarding Community, to compare experiences. Once again, Galloway Diocese will have a very strong representation at this event.

The theme for the Annual Conference is '*Preventing Abuse*,' and at the event the delegates will get the opportunity to hear from contributors from inside our National Groups and from further afield, including listening to the keynote speaker, Stuart Allerdyce from The Lucy Foundation/Stop it Now.

The ongoing work of Safeguarding continues to be valued and supported by our Clergy and Religious who work in collaboration with the lay volunteers to maintain high standards and uphold important values for Safeguarding throughout the Diocese of Galloway.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of the entire Diocesan Community, and it is important that we keep the message of "In God's Image" at the forefront of all our pastoral activities. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who are committed to upholding the safety and protection of all in our communities. You do make a difference.

Signed:

Father William McFadden (Vicar General)

W. R. McFadden

Tony Fisher (Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser)

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