



TAKING CARE UPDATE²⁶



**New Forms for
Access NI and Garda Vetting**

**Training Dates
for Autumn 2014**

**Training the
Trainers Course**

EDITORS' WELCOME

(26TH EDITION)

Hello and Welcome to the next issue of the Update.

The past six months or so has flown by and I can honestly say has been the busiest ever for the Taking Care Office and team! With the Conference in April, Training for Ministers from January to May and the Training the Trainers Course in May and June we just haven't stopped! Not to mention all of the Foundation, Refresher, Designated Person and Social Media training; the hundreds of Access NI and Garda Vetting forms that have been processed as well as the general advice and 24 incidents that have been dealt with in 2014 to date. I give thanks to God for giving us the energy and grace that is sufficient for our every need.

In this issue you can read reports on the Taking Care Conference and the Training the Trainers course as well as find out about dates for upcoming training in the autumn and why the police check forms have had to be changed once more.

Those of you who listened to the General Assembly debates in June will be aware that the proposal for the new structures was passed. From your reading of the reports you may have noticed that this means two changes for Taking Care: 1) Taking Care will become a General Assembly committee (at present it is an Advisory Group under the Family Services Committee) and 2) Taking Care will remain under the Council for Social Witness but will also be part of the Council for Congregational Life and Witness. The work that we do and the people who do it should however remain the same. The new structures will not be implemented until January 2015.

For now let's hope that the second half of 2014 is not quite as hectic as the first! Thank-you to everyone for your support and encouragement.

Take Care,
Deborah
Taking Care Coordinator



Like us on Facebook, just search
PCI TAKING CARE



TAKING CARE CONFERENCE 2014

On the morning of Saturday 12th April, 300 Designated Persons, Ministers, youth leaders and parents all gathered at assembly buildings to enjoy fantastic cupcakes together but more importantly than that, to consider some difficult issues and learn from experts across various fields. Adjectives such as "Outstanding, On the Nail, Marvellous, Superb!" were used to describe the conference and one delegate commented that it was, "inspiring, educational and fresh". Another wrote, "Invaluable – we live in a fast changing world and need to keep up to date and we need to be informed of all topics, especially the difficult ones covered today". The keynote address was entitled, 'Self-harm: The Hidden Harm and the Churches' Response'. The choice of seminars were: 'Bullying Online and Offline', 'Welcoming Children with Additional Needs' and 'The reality of Online Pornography'.

Three special guests were interviewed during the 'On the Sofa' section to find out about changes in child protection in areas such as vetting and risk assessment.

A huge thank-you to all who stewarded, registered, poured coffee, manned the Taking Care stand and to everyone who attended. If you did not make it to the conference or would like to listen to some of the talks again please log on to the website: www.presbyterianireland.org/tcconference

SOCIAL MEDIA EVENINGS



These events have been organised by the local congregations and everyone in the area is invited. To find out what the events entail, log on to the website and look under the 'events' section.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| - Tartaraghan, Co. Armagh 17th Sept 7:30pm | - OC Randalstown 21st Oct 7:30pm |
| - 1st Ballyeaston, Ballyclare 18th Sept 7:30pm | - Lucan, Co. Dublin 23rd Oct 7:30pm |
| - Markethill, Co. Armagh 2nd Oct 7:30pm | - 1st Ballymoney 13th Nov 8pm |

NEW FORMS INTRODUCED

Nothing ever stands still in the remit of protecting children! So once again, a new Access NI form (TCF/14) and a new Garda Vetting form have been introduced. This is to accommodate changes in legislation. The changes are not introduced by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and we have no choice but to keep up with the law and government bodies. It is envisaged that in both jurisdictions online forms will be available in 2015.

ACCESS NI FORMS (NORTHERN IRELAND)

In the last edition of the Update (issue 25) the new definitions of regulated activity were set out. Our new form now incorporates these changes (on the PCI cover page) but was also changed due to filtering. From April 2014, filtering of old and minor convictions and cautions was introduced by Access NI. This means that some minor cautions or convictions will no longer be shown on certificates e.g. a single driving conviction from twelve years ago.

The changes to the Rehabilitation of Offenders legislation to introduce the filtering scheme means that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as a registered body can no longer ask for details of all convictions. Hence, this question has been removed from the form. The new form is now available to download on our website and available for collection in Assembly Buildings. The previous form, TCF/13 is still being accepted.

GARDA VETTING FORMS (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

In preparation for the commencement of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2014, the Minister for Justice and Equality implemented an administrative filter to be applied to all Garda Vetting applications. The purpose of this filter is to allow a more balanced, relevant and proportionate approach to Garda Vetting, pending the commencement of the Act in December 2014. Some minor court convictions are not being disclosed, e.g. motoring offences older than 7 years old.

The Vetting Unit will accept applications on the old form which have been signed by the applicant on or before **11th July 2014**. The Vetting Unit has advised us they "are under legal constraint in this regard and there are issues of liability where a vetting applicant is required to sign a declaration which does not reflect the factual nature of the data being disclosed. Where organisations continue to submit the forms in the old format, liability in this issue will rest with the organisation concerned."

Forms are available on hardcopy from the Taking Care Office. All Designated Persons in the Republic of Ireland were sent a copy of the new form in August.

If you would like more information on either of these changes we can provide you with more information.

Dates for your Diary

Training for those working with Vulnerable Adults

7th Oct 10:30am -1pm Assembly Buildings, Belfast.

This training is for anyone working (either in a paid or voluntary post) with older people or adults who are vulnerable. Topics covered will include:

- Awareness of vulnerability
- Legal context of adult safeguarding
- Awareness of adult abuse issues
- Procedures for reporting concerns

This is a pilot event and places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis so you must **register** prior to the event with Amanda.

Training for Ministers – Catch- Up

21st Oct 10:30am -1pm Hillhall Presbyterian Church.

For any Ministers who were unable to attend the 2014 training sessions. Please **register** for this event with Amanda at the office.

Foundation Training

For new leaders:

Orangefield, Belfast	10th Sept 7:30pm
OC Randalstown	10th Sept 7:30pm
2nd & 3rd Rathfriland	2nd Oct 7.30pm
Raphoe, Co. Donegal	6th Oct 7:30pm
Molesworth, Cookstown	6th Oct 8pm
Glendermott, Londonderry	14th Oct 7:30pm
Hillsborough	16th Oct 7:30pm
The Mall, Armagh	16th Oct 7:30pm
Mountjoy, Omagh	20th Oct 7:30pm
Adelaide Road, Dublin	21st Oct 7:30pm
Cootehill, Monaghan	23rd Oct 7:30pm
Trinity, Ballymoney	27th Oct 7:30pm

Trinity, Cork for all leaders 23rd Sept 7:30pm (provisional)

...AND DON'T FORGET

Anti-Bullying Week from Monday 17th Nov 2014



Points for Prayer

- Give Thanks for answered prayer regarding the Taking Care Conference. All talks were appropriate, relevant and delivered with passion. Give thanks that the event ran smoothly despite the fire alarm!!
- Pray for those affected by issues covered at the conference – self-harm, pornography, bullying and special needs. That they may find hope in our saviour, Jesus Christ.
- Give thanks for the 32 participants who completed the Training the Trainers Course. Give thanks to God for their enthusiasm and experience. Help them as they complete their assessed delivery and learning journal.



TAKING CARE TRAINING THE TRAINERS COURSE



Who completed the Training the Trainers Course?

32 people completed the Taking Care Training the Trainers Course held in May and June of this year at Union College, Belfast and the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown. The group is a mixture of trainers who have been delivering the Taking Care material for a number of years – many since 2006 along with several new recruits.

I asked the group the following questions and have included some of the answers:

What did you think of the Training the Trainer's Course?

"It was an Excellent first time course – well prepared and delivered".

What did you think of the two days at Union and the guest tutors?

(Guest Tutors spoke on the following topics: The Sexual Offences Law and Sex Offenders; The Role of Social Services; Access NI and the Vetting Process and The World of Insurance and Risk Assessment.)

"Having some external tutors really added to the overall experience of training. All of their presentations were excellent and we learnt a lot from the different speakers which will be very helpful when giving future Taking Care presentations".

What did you think of the residential?

"The residential was a great way to get to know the other trainers better and to develop a team spirit amongst the group. It was definitely good to get a chance to present in front of other trainers. PCI investing in a comfortable hotel with food made me feel valued as a trainer".

What are the next steps for the course participants?

In order to become a Taking Care Trainer, each participant must successfully complete a Learning Journal and an assessed delivery. This is when they will deliver a Taking Care Training Session and will be assessed by a member of the Taking Care Advisory Group. It is hoped that a graduation event will be planned for December when we can celebrate the achievement of each of the trainers.

