



TAKING CARE UPDATE²¹



New Foundational Training

- First 'new' Foundational training delivered

Latest News on...

- Safeguarding Adults & AccessNI

Special Focus

- Parent's Awareness Week

EDITORS' WELCOME

(21ST EDITION)

Hello everyone – it's good to be back again! I say back again as I start a second period as Taking Care Coordinator. Deborah is on maternity leave and I will be working hard to keep things on track until she returns. We want to congratulate Deborah, Lachlan and Freya on their new addition to the family, Lewis Lachlan Webster born on the Sunday 28th October 2012. All are doing well!

There have been a few changes since my last time in Taking Care – a refurbished office, new ways of doing things, new approach to training and a new Mrs Kyle! Amanda married Mark on 18th August and they are settling in to their new home in Portglenone. Many congratulations to them both as they start out on their new life together.

October/November time traditionally means an increase in Taking Care training and this year has been no different as we deliver Foundational and Refresher training to many people. The Taking Care programme is indebted to the team of voluntary trainers who undertake this work, travelling near and far to keep us up to date!

In this issue we have set out guidelines relating to changes to Access NI. Also, we have included information concerning Vulnerable Adults and the way ahead. I do hope this will clarify the position and help to alleviate any confusion which may arise.

As ever, there is plenty to do! Please don't hesitate to contact the office for any advice or guidance or better still, why not call in? It would be great to see you and encourage each other in the work of Taking Care.

Take Care,
Geoff
Taking Care Coordinator



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PCI TAKING CARE



Foundational Training at Letterkenny – Derry/Donagall Presbytery

Training - Foundational & Refresher

The first set of the 'new' Foundational training has been delivered to Presbyteries. Large numbers have attended each session – in total **1673** persons have been trained. Whilst we are encouraged by these numbers there would still appear to be some confusion over who should attend this foundational training and/or the criteria.

Foundational training is for newly appointed leaders or for those leaders who have been "in post" for a while and have never attended any type of training. We will still continue to deliver refresher training to individual congregations every 3 years – just ring the office to arrange. This new 2-strand approach to training is proving to be successful and another round of foundational training is scheduled for early 2013.



Refresher training at Badoney – Omagh Presbytery



Refresher Training at 2nd Castlederg





Parents' Awareness Week

During the week 9th – 15th December 2012, we aim to highlight to parents the work of Taking Care in our Churches. Thousands of children and young people attend our organisations on a weekly basis and are entrusted into the care of the Church. Parents/guardians must be informed and assured that we are looking after their precious loved ones in the right way.

That we:

- Provide safe and well maintained premises.
- Engage in proper risk assessed activities.
- Deal with any concern or disclosure

in a caring, confidential and competent way.

- Have an appointment of leaders process.
- Provide up to date training and information.
- Have good policies, guidelines and structures set in place.

All Presbyterian Churches have signed up to Taking Care – creating a safe environment for children, young people, leaders and staff. Please support the Parent' Awareness Week as your Church raises the awareness of the Taking Care programme.

LATEST NEWS ON...

Safeguarding Adults

The whole issue of "Safeguarding Adults at Risk" is currently under discussion. It has now become clearer that our anxiety in relating to the role of Elders and some church visitors is more defined. As a Church we are well represented at the different levels of implementation. Deborah Webster from the Taking Care office has completed the 'Keeping Adults Safe – Training the Trainer's' programme with Volunteer Now (recognised by DHSSPS). Early in 2013 we will be promoting guidelines and training across the Church.

Lindsay Conway

AccessNI

From 10th September 2012, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 has amended the definition of regulated activity. In simple terms the definition creates a focus of unsupervised and work by supervised volunteers in regulated activity relating to children. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland cannot guarantee the supervision of all leaders at all time. Discussions are still ongoing with Access NI. Pending the outcome, there is no change to the current appointment of leader's process which includes an Access NI check for leaders working with children or young people.



Points of Prayer

Pray for 'Parents Awareness Week - that the wellbeing and safety of children and young people will be upper most in our minds.

Pray for the on-going schedule of Refresher Training in congregations: that it will be helpful, informative and enjoyable.

Pray for people who perform the role of Designated Person(s) in congregations: their willingness to become involved and for maintaining a link with the Taking Care Office.

Ask God to Bless and have His way in all children and youth work.

PARENTS AWARENESS WEEK

9th - 15th December 2012

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR PARENTS GUIDE THIS WEEK!



**Speak to your
Designated Person:**

for more Information!