



TAKING CARE UPDATE²³



Taking Care Training

- Designated Persons, Refresher, Foundational and Social Media

Latest Taking Care News

- New Access NI forms, website and 'We Care' Guides

Special Focus

- Frequently Asked Questions

EDITORS' WELCOME

(23RD EDITION)

This edition of Taking Care Update will take us through the summer months bringing with it, for most folk, the long awaited holidays. May you have a wonderful time of rest and relaxation and lots of sunshine along the way. Most Church organisations close down for this period enabling leaders to have a break and get refreshed for the new session starting in September 2013. I believe it is vitally important that leaders guard this time - it's a Biblical thing to do. We often read of Jesus taking time away from others to be alone with His Father for rest.

But God's work doesn't suddenly stop and start, there will be many Holiday Bible clubs in our Churches and lots of young people will be serving in summer outreach teams both in N Ireland and further afield. Whilst things are undertaken in a different or even a new way the ever-present Child Protection guidelines still apply. So, a reminder to all involved – do not disregard or minimise our responsibilities!

Training is always an integral part of the Taking Care programme and we have highlighted various training sessions. New dates for Foundational training in September/October are currently being arranged with Presbyteries. Please see enclosed poster and PCI website www.presbyterianireland.org

The Special Focus section includes FAQ's in an effort to clarify those simple but often constant questions of which we are sometimes stuck for an answer! I hope you find it useful.

Finally Deborah returns to work in mid-August after a period of maternity leave. Thank you for your patience with me over the last 10 months. I have been blessed to meet so many people over this period – all so dedicated to the work God has called them to be a part of.

Take Care,
Geoff
Taking Care Coordinator



Like us on Facebook, just search
PCI TAKING CARE

AccessNI News...

AccessNI introduced new style Application Forms on 19th March. The cut-off date for use of old forms has now passed (30th June) and any submitted will not be processed. **NEW FORMS ONLY PLEASE.** For ease of reference the new form has green coloured arrows on the back page.

Fermanagh Addresses – Applicants who have lived in addresses in Co Fermanagh in the last 5 years must ensure that they provide the old **townland** address(s) and the new **post coded** address(s) on their application forms. Those who currently reside in Co Fermanagh should place their current coded address into their current address details and their old townland address in to the address history section of the application form (even it is for the same house!)

Training

Designated Person training...

A total of 146 persons attended a very successful round of Designated Person training held at five venues across NI and 3 venues in ROI during February/March 2013. This was a significant increase on previous year's attendance and such an encouragement to the Taking Care office. One designated person made the trek (3 hour round trip!) from the West coast of Ireland to attend training in Omagh – a big thank you to all who give of their time to attend training and for your commitment to the work of Taking Care.



Designated Person Training, Richhill



Designated Person Training, Letterkenny



Designated Person Training, Monaghan



Designated Person Training, Omagh



Designated Person Training, Ballymena

Taking Care Training



Refresher training at Cumber Derry & Donegal Presbytery

NEW 'WE CARE' GUIDES

The Taking Care Office have been working hard over the past few months to revise and rebrand our current 'We Care' pocket guides for children, leaders and parents. As part of the rebranding, we are also hoping to introduce a new 'We Care' guide which will be created specifically for teenagers/young adults. We are very excited about the new design, and hope to have these ready for Congregations by mid-September. We'll keep you up to date with our progress and hope you are as excited as us to see the new designs...

FOUNDATION TRAINING

Our second bout of Foundation training took place in April/May across most Presbyteries and was a great success with more than 500 leaders attending from over 100 congregations. Autumn 2013 dates and venues for Foundational Training is currently being finalised across all Presbyteries. Please ensure any newly appointed leaders or those who have never attended Taking Care CP training before, attend. Refresher training should be held by individual congregations every 3 years and this can easily be arranged by contacting the Taking Care office.

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENTATION



Taking Care Social Media Training is specifically designed to provide practical steps for leaders

and parents, enabling them to protect and support healthy relations in the online world. The presentation has been delivered to a number of Congregations and feedback has been very encouraging. Contact the Taking Care Office to arrange a presentation in your church.

IT INFORMATION...



The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has updated its official website, offering visitors a full set

of new features to explore online. Taking Care has its place on the website so, please browse the various sections, to familiarise accessing the information and downloads. The existing Taking Care website will be phased out over the next months.

www.presbyterianireland.org



Points of Prayer

Pray for Holiday Bible clubs which are taking place over the summer months. Pray for safety and enjoyment as God's word is shared in a more informal and relaxed way.

Pray for leaders as they take a break from organisations that they will be refreshed and return in September with new enthusiasm and commitment to serve God.

Pray for young people as they have time off from school/college, that they will go to the right places, make good choices, and engage in worthwhile activities

Pray for families that over the summer time they will experience plenty of fun, laughter and relaxation doing new or not so new things together.

SPECIAL FOCUS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ'S

How many leaders do I need.....?

Under 8 years (Indoor activities)

0-2 years = 1 leader to 3 children

2-3 years = 1 leader to 4 children

3-7 years = 1 leader to 8 children

8 years and over

= 1 leader to 10 children

NB 2 leaders/helpers must be present at all times.

I have completed Child protection training in my day job, is that OK for PCI?
Any CP training is good, however PCI are held accountable for their own training programme therefore you must attend Taking Care training.

What about BB/GB Child Protection training?
Unless very recently completed you must attend Taking Care training.

I have a police check from other work, do I still have to be checked with PCI?

Yes, PCI is a standalone organisation and all leaders must have an AccessNI/Garda check. Currently the check is not portable between organisations but hopefully soon!

Are there any exceptions to this checking?
Not as such but as a guide we only check people appointed post 2005 and who work with children or young people four or more times per year in an unsupervised capacity.

Do caretakers, musical directors, church office staff need to be checked?

Not unless they are working with children and young people in regulated activity in an unsupervised role.

Can I use young leaders?

Yes - young people between the ages of 15 and 18 can be used in making up the ratio. However they should not be left alone or in charge of children and young people.

How long does a police check last for?

A police check is carried out on appointment. Generally, there is no requirement for any further check but this can be done if needed.

Are references really necessary?

Yes - any good vetting system will have references as part of an appointment process.

It is the responsibility of Kirk Session to call in the references.

Do leaders need to be checked if parents are always present with their children?

Not every leader needs to be checked, but we do ask that a leader-in-charge and/or deputy are checked.

Parental consent forms - do we need them every year?

If the make-up of the group remains pretty much the same a bi-annual parental consent form is sufficient. Don't forget contact details, family or medical information can often change and may need updated over the period.

Who is responsible for my church's CP policy?

Kirk session is ultimately responsible for all CP matters, including CP policy which is renewed every three years and is readily available to anyone who wants a copy.

Can the Taking Care office provide an updated list of all leaders who are checked in my Church?

Yes they can, but to compile a list is time consuming. It can be done as a one off to establish good record keeping for a Church, but not on a repetitive basis.

NB police check refers to an Enhanced Access NI Check/Garda Vetting.