

TAKING CARE UPDATE²⁵



New Training Dates Released

Taking Care Conference 2014

Changes to Legislation (N.I)

EDITORS' WELCOME

(25TH EDITION)

Hello and welcome to the first Taking Care Update of 2014. As winter is slowly turning into spring, it's great to see the evenings getting lighter and the mornings getting brighter! Training at Taking Care is on the increase in terms of number of events and excellence and this year will be no exception.

During 2013 between myself and our volunteer trainers 139 Taking Care training sessions were delivered. At the time of writing, we are almost half-way through training for Ministers and in this issue new dates are released for Foundation, Designated Persons training and Social Media. In terms of excellence, a new Training for Trainers' course will take place in May and several new recruits have come forward.

Before that, of course, on 12th April, Assembly Buildings will be the venue for our Taking Care Conference.

Regular attenders will see that we have shortened the event this year so that it will be finished by lunch time but I'm confident that the content will not disappoint and the topics are all very relevant to leaders, parents and our children and young people today.

Enclosed you will find a poster – please display it on church premises and invite leaders in organisations to come along. If you would like an image for your church's power point or announcement sheet then please contact me. Hope to see you all there!

*Take Care,
Deborah
Taking Care Coordinator*



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PCI TAKING CARE

Foundation Training Dates Spring 2014

Foundation Training events have been arranged for the dates and venues below. This training is for **NEW leaders** or those who have never attended Taking Care Training sessions before. There is no need to register for the events.

1st May	Druminnis, Armagh	14th May	Downshire Road, Newry
5th May	1st Holywood	15th May	Trinity Letterkenny, Donegal
7th May	1st Ballynahinch	19th May	Ballynure
8th May	Carlisle Road, Londonderry	20th May	Wellington, Ballymena
12th May	Drum, Monaghan	27th May	1st Omagh
13th May	Terrace Row, Coleraine	29th May	Lucan, Dublin

Don't forget refresher training is recommended every three years and is for all leaders to attend. To organise, contact Amanda at the office.

TRAINING FOR DESIGNATED PERSONS 2014

- 1st Ballymoney 11th March 7.30pm
- Markethill 18th March 7.30pm
- Strabane 20th March 7.30pm
- Adelaide Road, Dublin 25th March 7.30pm
- Assembly Buildings, Belfast 26th March 10.30am – 12 noon

This training focuses on the role of the Designated Person and is primarily for newly appointed Designated Persons, or those who haven't been to training in the past four years. However any Designated Persons are welcome to attend.

The training will cover the following topics:

- Role of the Designated Person
- Role of the Taking Care Office
- Appointment Process
- Responding, Reporting and Recording

To register, please contact Amanda at the Office at akyle@pcinet.org or phone +44 (0)28 9041 7290.

SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING

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

- Bannside 4th Mar 7:30pm
- 1st Ballyeaston 10th Apr 7:30pm
- Glaslough 25th Mar 7:30pm
- 1st Dunboe 29th Apr 7:30pm
- Rosemary 26th Mar 7:30pm



Changes to Legislation (N.I)



The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Order (NI) 2007 was amended by The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. As a result of this, there are two changes that Designated Persons and those in church leadership need to be aware of:

1. A slight change to the answer to the popular question, "Who should be checked?"
2. A legal duty is placed on organisations to refer people deemed 'unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable Adults due to risk of harm' that they may pose to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

I will briefly outline what these changes entail for us below:

1. Access NI checking has always been for those working/volunteering 'regularly' with children (i.e. under 18 years old) but it was never stipulated

by the government what 'regularly' actually mean, hence we decided that regular would mean four or more times a year. This change in legislation does define for us what they call regulated activity and it is the following:

Those involved in unsupervised roles: teaching, instructing, caring for or supervising children/young people, providing guidance on well-being or driving a vehicle -

- Once a week or more
- Four or more times in a 30 day period
- Any overnight

Guidance in the form of a downloadable leaflet will be produced over the next month or so to make clear how all of our organisations and roles fit into this and to ease confusion. What is important to note is that **nobody needs to be re-checked** and most organisations will not be affected by the changes. It will mostly be those that operate on a rota basis that might be affected.

2. If any organisation or congregation removes a person from a position of leadership with children because they have caused harm or have the potential to cause harm they must contact the Taking Care Office as the Disclosure and Barring Service will most likely need to be informed.

RECOGNITION AWARDS



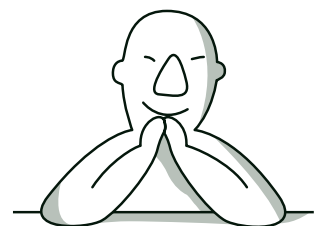
Do you know someone who is making a difference in your community by demonstrating Christ's love to others?

Would you like an opportunity to recognise their amazing efforts and encourage them in their role?

The Board of Social Witness is proud to launch the first ever Recognition Awards which will celebrate outstanding contributions made by staff and volunteers in churches, agencies or within the Board itself, who are reaching out to others in a practical way.

For more information and to download nomination forms please visit: www.presbyterianireland.org/recognitionawards

Points for Prayer



- Pray for Cathy Bell, Lee Kane, Denise Keegan, Linda Wray and Simon Cole as they prepare their talks for the Conference on 12th April. May they be given wisdom and be guided on the direction to take.
- Give thanks for Ministers who have attended the Ministers Training so far. Pray for Deborah and Geoff that God will continue to guide and strengthen them as they deliver training and answer questions.
- Pray for members of the Taking Care Advisory Group who will meet again on 19th March. Pray that they will use their expertise and wisdom well, especially when considering the development of new policies and procedures.

TAKING CARE CONFERENCE 2014

12th April is our Conference date and this year our keynote is not to be missed. During 2013 the Taking Care Office dealt with 42 child protection incidents, 9 of these were reports of young people self-harming.

However, the number of young people in our congregations affected by self-harm will be much, much more. Cathy Bell brings a wealth of experience from both a professional and Christian perspective as she considers this 'hidden harm' and what the response of the church should be.

With 10% of young people in Northern Ireland having self harmed (statistic from 'The Big House, Ireland') and NSPCC citing a 50% increase in contacts mentioning self-harm among 12 year olds, if you've haven't come across this issue yet, there's a good chance it will cross your path at some point. If you can't make the conference date, encourage someone else from your church to attend. If you can, I look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday 12th April 2014 10am – 1pm (registration from 9:30am) | **Assembly Buildings, Belfast**

Our keynote address at this year's conference is entitled, **'Self-Harm: The Hidden Harm & the Church's Response'**.

Our speaker will be Cathy Bell. Cathy is Chair of BACP for young people (British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy), Regional Coordinator of Independent Counselling Service for Schools and a Director of The Big House Ireland.

STREAMS

- **Bullying – online and offline**
- **Welcoming Children with Additional Needs**
- **The reality of online pornography and its effect on our church and young people**

To book, logon to www.presbyterianireland.org/tcconference or phone **+44 (0)28 9041 7290**

