

TAKINGCARE **UPDATE**¹⁷

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Facebook, Bebo, Twitter...

- The Pros and Cons

Special focus

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Taking Care Update – Spring 2011 Edition 17



Hello and welcome to the Taking Care Update (17th Edition) - *From the Editor*

As this is my first Update on returning from maternity leave I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who sent cards, presents and best wishes on the birth of my daughter, Freya. I would like to say a special thank-you to Geoff Marshall who stepped into my shoes for that period of time. I'm sure those of you who have met Geoff will agree that he did a fantastic job with the training and all other aspects of the work. Geoff continues to be involved in the Taking Care work as a volunteer trainer. Geoff was greatly helped in the office by Amanda Cotter, our Taking Care Administrator.

It was great to come back to the office confident that the work has continued and blossomed under the direction of these two hard working people. But things never stay the same for long – not only are we moving into a brand new office on the second floor of Church House,

we are preparing to say good-bye and best wishes to Amanda who is leaving Northern Ireland for six months to teach English to girls living in a rescue home in Cambodia. Her position as Taking Care Administrator will be filled shortly and I'm sure you will join with me in praying for Amanda as she begins this exciting journey and for the person who will continue the work of organising training and sending forms to Access NI in her place.

There have been several enquiries to the office regarding allergies and the use of Epipens, so I have worked with Allergy NI to write our Special Focus on this subject. Another ongoing hot topic within child protection has been the communication between leaders and young people via the Internet - our technology policy has been reviewed and is now available to download on the website under the



'downloads' section. Please take time to read it and if you are reviewing your congregation's child protection policy anytime soon, be sure to include this topic. New dates for Designated Persons training in the Republic of Ireland have now been arranged and work continues for our biennial Taking care Conference which will be held in October and of course, let's not forget the new manual which we are hoping to launch at the Conference.

As always, if you have any queries or questions to do with child protection then please don't hesitate to contact me on **028 9041 7290** or email **takingcare@presbyterianireland.org**

New for Taking Care - Refresher Training!

A new type of Taking Care training – 'Refresher Training' is being piloted this year. This training is for leaders and helpers working with children and young people who have already undergone the standard Taking Care training and are due to attend training once more. The Refresher training course is more interactive, assumes a basic knowledge of the churches' child protection policy and requires the audience to think, discuss and move out of their chairs! Refresher training was piloted for the first time at 2nd Saintfield. Thank-you to their Designated Person, Linda McConnell, the Minister, Rev. Graham Connor and the leaders who were very willing guinea pigs, participating joyfully and enthusiastically.



Linda McConnell (Designated Person) and some leaders from 2nd Saintfield discuss one of the scenarios

Dates for your diary

Trainer's Retreat

- 2nd and 3rd December at Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Newry.

Taking Care Conference

- 8th October 2011 in Church House.

Designated Persons Training

- Lucan, 11th May 7:30pm
- Kilkenny, 12th May 7:30pm
- Cootehill (Monaghan), 19th May 7:30pm
- Ray (Donegal) 24th May 7:30pm

For more information please visit: www.pcibsw.org/takingcare

Taking Care in Numbers 2011 (so far...)

44 Congregational Training events
503 Access NI forms processed
1650 Number of visits to the Taking Care website at www.pcibsw.org/takingcare
12 Garda Vetting forms processed



Taking Care Sunday at Ballyhome

When Rev. Peter Lyle and the Kirk Session of Ballyholme Presbyterian decided to have a Taking Care Sunday, Designated Person, Hillary Millar thought about what to do:



Deborah with Rev Peter Lyle and Designated Person Hillary Millar.

"A fun film called Pew Review which I had seen at a Taking Care Conference came to mind and I thought that it may catch the congregations' imagination.. After that, Deborah was asked to give a talk to the congregation: "Deborah explained the reasoning behind the whole area of protection of children and vulnerable adults and pointed out the fact that the idea was to protect both children and leaders. We all wish to ensure that our children are safe so volunteers must realise that the application process is necessary and must be followed by all leaders as is their attendance at the PCI child protection training sessions...The illustrations Deborah used and her friendly and positive approach made the whole subject interesting and more easily understood by all who had the pleasure of meeting her".

The Vetting and Barring Scheme

What is the latest news on the Vetting and Barring Scheme?

As you may have heard, David Cameron's coalition government decided to 'scrap' the Vetting and Barring scheme and replace it with a more 'common sense' approach to vetting.

What changes have been made?

It is important to stress that there are no specific changes at present and it is business as usual at Access NI and the Taking Care Office.

When will the revised scheme be put in place?

New legislation will have to be put into place in 2012 before the new scheme can even be implemented.

What does this mean for new leaders?

DO NOT WAIT until this new system comes into place! It cannot be stressed enough that leaders should undergo a police check (whether that be an Access NI form or a Garda Vetting form depending on where the applicant lives) as part of the appointment process. Leaders should not be asked to complete a form after they have already been in post. As 95% of Access NI forms are processed within two weeks plus a day or two at the Taking Care office, there is no excuse!

The government's review and recommendations can be found on the Home Office website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/vbs-report

Applying for funding - Registered Body Number

PART A Service required - cross 1 box only	
A1	Standard (£26) <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced (£30) <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced / ISA (£58) <input type="checkbox"/> ISA only (£58) <input type="checkbox"/>
A2	Registered Body Name P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H I N I R E L A N D
A3	Registered Body No. 8 0 0 0 0 0 1 3 9 9
A4	Counter Signatory No.

If you are completing an application form for funding from the Education and Library Board, you will be asked for the registered body number for Access Northern Ireland for the Presbyterian Church. This number can be found at the bottom of page one of our Access NI form and is circled above.

Facebook, Bebo, Twitter, texting...

Facebook, Bebo, Twitter, texting ... where would a young person's life be without them? New ways to communicate inevitably bring new issues for child protection and questions to the Taking Care Office: A youth leader has a photograph of a naked woman as his profile picture – all the young people in his youth club are on his site. A Sunday school teacher takes photos of her class enjoying a picnic and puts them up on Facebook. A young person confides in their Youth Worker over MSN Messenger that she has been self harming. A young teenage boy and an older female leader in a church organisation have sent over 500 texts to one another in the

last month, mostly sent after midnight. Should leaders be banned from texting and contacting young people over the Internet?

Yet the very fact that this is the primary mode of communication for young people means leaders cannot afford to ignore it. After all, communication via the Internet can be an effective tool in youth ministry. Working with young people often requires a balancing act between being part of the world in which they live, in order to reach them, and yet maintaining a leadership role. No place is this balancing act more difficult to get right than in the area of technology, namely the Internet

and, in particular, social networking sites, blogs, micro-blogs and other public domain publishing methods. It is because of this that the Taking Care guidelines on the use of technology namely the section, 'Communication with young people via the internet', has been reviewed and is available to download on the Taking Care website under the 'Downloads' section. A printed version can be posted out on request. Please take time to read it and if you are reviewing your congregation's child protection policy anytime soon, be sure to include this topic. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah.

Special focus

Allergies

The following information and advice has been put together with the help of Maureen Paul (Coordinator of Allergy NI)

The Presbyterian Church should be a place where all children and their families are welcome. Organisations within the church have a duty to be inclusive and to provide opportunities for children and young people of all abilities and regardless of any medical conditions, disabilities or allergies which they may have. Leaders also have a responsibility to ensure that children are as safe as they can be while they are attending the organisations.

What should be considered when a child with a serious allergy is present at an organisation?

Food

- If you are providing food for the children make sure that those with allergies are able to be included as much as possible and if they can't that a suitable alternative is found, ask parents/carers for a suggestion.
- If a child in the organisation has an allergy to nuts then it is safer that nuts are banned from the organisation.
- If prizes and presents are given to the children it is best not to use sweets and chocolate etc., a pencil or bookmark would be more appropriate.

Outings

- If eating out with the group parents may be able to recommend somewhere to eat that caters for their needs.
- Make sure you know where the nearest hospital is in case it is required.
- Make sure you take contact details with you for all children and the allergic child's medication.

Medication

- Children with severe allergies should carry a 'rescue pack' usually provided by their parents and given to the person in charge.
- Make sure consent forms for all children and young people attending the organisation are available and up to date together with full details of the child's allergies.
- Remember that consent forms should always be stored in a confidential location but accessible to leaders.

Epipens

If a child has a serious allergy they can be in danger of having an anaphylactic reaction which could cause blood pressure to drop, swelling of the throat and blocked airways. A person in danger of taking an anaphylactic reaction will carry an Epipen which contains adrenaline and works quickly to reverse the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction.

What to consider if a child carries an Epipen?

Epipens rarely need to be used however if an Epipen is prescribed for a child it must always be available. Only a person who is trained in using an Epipen should administer one. If there is a child or young

person who carries an Epipen in your organisation then at least two of the leaders should be trained in the use of an Epipen.

If an Epipen does have to be used the person needs to be taken to hospital for a check up and observation as an anaphylactic reaction can re-occur again within 24/36 hours.

Who can deliver training on the use of an Epipen?

A qualified doctor or nurse can give training to leaders on how to use an Epipen. If this is not a feasible option for your organisation, see below. Epipen training is not covered in the basic First Aid training course.

Is there an organisation who can provide the training?

Managing Director of Simucare, John Barber, will deliver a 1-2 hour training session for adults on the use of an Epipen. It is a practical session and will include a power point presentation on the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis shock. You can contact John on **028 9442 7531** or email john.barber@simucare.co.uk.

For more information, advice or support about Allergies contact Allergy NI. Allergy NI is a local charity, formed in 2005 to support individuals or families who have serious or potentially life threatening allergies. They support people who have serious allergies and raise awareness of allergies. Allergy NI can also offer advice to people working with children who have allergies and have produced a leaflet giving advice and guidance on including an allergic child on an outing. They can be contacted on **028 9446 1001** or email info@allergyini.co.uk