

Taking Care Update

Issue 9 – Spring 2009



Welcome Amanda!

Amanda Cotter is our new Taking Care Administrator. Amanda has replaced Gail Gamble who has moved into the main Board of Social Witness Office.

We would like to thank Gail for the work that she did in Taking Care and wish her every success in her new post. We are delighted that Amanda has joined Deborah in the office. Amanda's role is twofold: Processing POCVA (Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults) checks, which includes writing letters of confirmation to Designated Persons and organising Taking Care Training sessions in congregations. If you want to follow up a POCVA check or are organising Taking Care Training for your own congregation, then please contact Amanda on (028) 90417290 or email takingcare@presbyterianireland.org.

Coming Soon...We Care *With* U!

First there was 'We Care 4 U', then we had 'We Care 4 U Too!', soon there will be 'We Care *With* U!' We Care 4 U (sponsored by The Presbyterian Orphans and Children's Society) is the pocket guide that was produced for all children within our organisations and congregations. They are still available, perhaps you could re-distribute to the children in September 2009? Please make sure any new children in your organisations have been given one. We Care 4 U Too! is the Leader's Guide, sponsored by Royal & Sunalliance. Remember to give them to new leaders at the interview stage of the Recruitment Process. We Care *With* U! is, as you might have gathered, a leaflet for Parents. The leaflet will be launched at our Taking Care Conference and will be available for collection from that day. We are grateful to The Presbyterian Orphans and Children's Society who have once again kindly agreed to be our sponsor.



Dates for your Diary

Taking Care Training

To find out where Taking Care Training is happening at a congregation near you, then please speak to Amanda at the Taking Care Office.

Training for Ministers

19th March – Ebrington
Presbyteries of:
Donegal and Derry

**1st April – Tritonville,
Dublin**
Presbytery of Dublin &
Munster

28th April - 1 Armagh
Presbyteries of: Armagh,
Monaghan and Newry

30th April – 1 Cookstown
Presbyteries of:
Tyrone and Omagh

**14th May – Church
House**
For those who were
unable to attend other
events in their
Presbytery

Taking Care Conference

25th April 2009
10am – 3pm
Church House

Taking Care Conference 2009

We are very excited about this year's *Taking Care Conference* (see booking form enclosed). We are relying on Designated Persons and Ministers to encourage Youth and Children's leaders to attend. You will see that the **Booking form** also acts as a **poster** which can be displayed on your church notice board. This year every congregation will be asked to send at least one **representative from Kirk Session** – it is important that all congregations are kept up to date. Log on to www.presbyterianireland.org/takingcare to download a power point slide for your church announcements.

The closing date for bookings will be **Thursday 9th April**. Lunch will be provided at the conference at no charge, but we can only guarantee lunch for those who book before the closing date, so get your form in early!



We are delighted that our Keynote speaker will be **Rebecca Andrews**, author of 'Policing Innocence' (Authentic Media). Rebecca brings a wealth of experience and clarity on the subjects of child protection and child abuse offenders in a church setting.

Tom Clarke from **Access Northern Ireland** and **Pamela Mallon** from **DHSSPS (Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety)** will be sharing with us

forthcoming **changes to legislation** and what it will mean for us in our roles. There are a selection six workshops to choose from on a range of practical and relevant issues. Each delegate will have the opportunity to choose two workshops. We will do our best to allocate places according to preference.

Feel free to photocopy the booking form as many times as needed but only use one form per person. If you would prefer, then please use our online booking form on the **website**. We will *not* be accepting telephone bookings.

Comments from the *Taking Care Conference 2007*

"It's valuable and important to highlight the child protection topic. It's good to have the chance to meet with people in other congregations in a setting like this" (Designated Person)

"Superb, Helpful and Frightening" (Minister) *"Good for such a boring subject"* (Youth Leader)

"I think it's important to keep folk up to date - every church may be at a different stage. Conferences like this can bring people to the same point" (Church Elder)