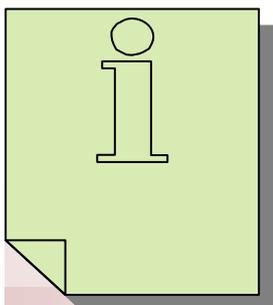


CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Welcome to the 15th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 15th issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. If you have any comments to make about this issue, please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)



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HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

“Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2010

HM Government through the DCSF (Department of Children, Schools and Families) have recently completed a revision of the primary guidance document for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This supersedes the 2006 version.

In the section specific to Faith communities the 2010 version highlights the importance of having in place procedures for staff and others to report concerns as well as having appropriate codes of practice for staff. It uses as an example of good practice the national procedures of the Catholic Church as issued by the CSAS.

Domestic Abuse

Specific guidance around how to respond to concerns that someone may be experiencing domestic abuse will shortly be included within the national procedures manual on www.csasprocedures.uk.net

This is part of the work from within the Bishops Conference involving CSAS, Marriage & Family Life, Caritas and the National Board of Catholic Women.

One aspect of this work has been the establishment of a specific website at www.cedar.uk.net

This will be populated with useful details about available resources as well as podcasts, articles and suggestions for awareness raising campaigns.



ISA Final Guidance

ISA released the generic Guidance in March. It can be obtained from the ISA website www.isa.gov.org.uk

Sector specific guidance including Faith; Education; Care; Voluntary amongst others is due to be released shortly.



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ISA within the Catholic Church

As CSAS has been fortunate to be one of the organisations actively involved in Consultative activity with the agencies involved in the delivery of ISA for nearly 3 years, we have been able to consider some of the issues when implementing ISA within the Church. A number of these issues have been discussed within existing Safeguarding forums of the Church and endorsed by the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC). For your information, outlined below are some of the things we know about how the Church will operate ISA.

What is a Regulated Activity Provider (RAP) and who is the Regulated Activity Provider (RAPs) within the Church?

A Regulated Activity Provider (as defined by the Independent Safeguarding Authority within the parameters of the Scheme) is an organisation or an individual that is responsible for the management or control of regulated activity, paid or unpaid, and makes arrangements for people to work in that activity. Therefore the Regulated Activity Provider (RAP) is usually an employer or voluntary organisation. The RAP is required to ensure that everyone working or volunteering in regulated activity is registered under the Scheme and that no-one engaging in regulated activity is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults (as applicable to the role)

Legal opinion (both canon and civil) has been sought concerning the interpretation of the RAP role in addition to discussions within the Bishops Conference. In light of the information and discussions to date the RAP in various Church contexts is outlined below. This reflects the need for the RAP to be in a position to remove a barred person from post promptly in addition to the RAP being aware of what regulated activities are occurring locally:

Bishops/Archbishops: Are designated the RAPs for Diocesan priests and clergy working within the jurisdiction of their Diocese.

Congregation Leader/Local Superior: Are designated the RAPs for members of Religious Orders.

Parish Priests: Are designated the RAPs for the activities that involve vulnerable groups that are taking place within their parish.

Activities delivered by Religious: The "local manager" is designated the RAP for activities delivered by Religious for example Care Home Manager; Retreat Centre Manager etc.

It is important to note that for charitable trusts the ultimate responsibility lies with the Board of Trustees and to this end it is important that the trustees understand the role of the RAP and are aware of those to whom this has been delegated.

What will be the approach for the Church when checking an applicant's existing ISA registration status online: The existing safeguarding structures will be used to access the online ISA service. This approach maintains increased security and continues the climate of confidentiality that already exists at this level. Separate organisations e.g. SVP will be responsible for checking existing ISA status. The internal forms that accompany the safer recruitment process i.e. application form; Safeguarding Self Declaration etc will be adjusted to ensure that the ISA registration number is not routinely sought at local level.

Will ALL Priests and Religious be ISA registered or only those knowingly engaging in Regulated Activities? All priests and Religious will need to be ISA registered. This is in appreciation of their "active ministry"; the diversity of work undertaken with vulnerable groups in addition to their role managing those who are directly working with children and vulnerable adults which also qualifies as "Regulated Activity". Deacons; Seminararians and Religious in Formation will also require ISA registration.

As ISA registration will take 7 days to process, should an individual be able to undertake the role once the ISA registration is received or not commence until the CRB Disclosure is received? A person will not be able to undertake their role working with children or vulnerable adults until a satisfactory CRB Disclosure is received in addition to the mandatory ISA registration. The Church is committed to retaining its robust safe recruitment and selection practices. Exceptions in regulated environments i.e. Care Homes will depend on regulator policy i.e. CQC Guidance.

The next issue of "Safeguarding Matters" is due out in June