

CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Welcome to the 24th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the regular Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. Should you have any comments—please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)

Goodbye to VBS and its Hello to PoFA

Background:

When the current Government came to power they quickly decided to halt the introduction of the Vetting & Barring Scheme that was proposed by the former Government. They commissioned a review to be undertaken into the use of Disclosures and as a consequence new legislation, the Protection of Freedoms Act, came into being. This new legislation will result in a number of Safer Recruitment practice changes which are being phased in.



Changes to Disclosure eligibility and type of Disclosure product:

The first change to become effective from 10th September relates to the what roles are eligible for an Enhanced Disclosure and a reduction in the types of activities that qualify as Regulated Activity. The term “Regulated Activity” is relevant when assessing if the Church is entitled to access the relevant Barred List for working with Children or Adults.

When looking at roles involving working with children, it is important to identify if the role will involve teaching, training, instructing, catering for or supervising children or providing advice or guidance on wellbeing or driving a vehicle solely for children. Such activities are regulated activity (meaning that an Enhanced Disclosure WITH a check of the Barred List for Children is required in all cases) when carried out regularly. When these activities are supervised (Guidance on the definition of supervision in the Church will be released in due course), those undertaking such activities are eligible for an Enhanced Disclosure but a check of the Barred List is not appropriate.

More significant changes have occurred with regards to working with adults. The term “vulnerable adults” is no longer used in Safer Recruitment terms. Regulated Activity when working with adults is now determined by the nature of the service for example providing healthcare by a healthcare professional; providing personal care which is specifically around physically assisting someone who requires basic care needs; providing social work meaning a Social Worker; assisting in conduct of a person's own affairs where a lasting power of attorney is in place; transporting adults to their health care appointments or social work related appointments or assisting with general household matters including paying a bill on someone's behalf or managing a person's cash. When working with adults, the first time that any of the above services are provided then it becomes Regulated Activity and the person providing the service must be checked against the Barred List for Adults via an Enhanced Disclosure BEFORE they provide the service.

This means that we have to be even more vigilant on risk assessing each role and determining what information we are entitled to obtain via the Disclosure process. The existing robust Safer Recruitment standards remain in place and the Church will maintain its vigilance when recruiting those who seek to work with the vulnerable.

Policy revisions:

The updated Safer Recruitment policy and procedures are in the process of being updated to reflect the legislative changes and the recent ID verification process requirements and will be available online in December.



CRB is changing....

The Church, like all other organisations and groups working with children and adults, is responding to a lot of change currently.

Further change occurs on 1st December when the CRB merges with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to become the Disclosure and Barring Service or DBS.

A new Disclosure application form will be released by the DBS from mid-November this year. The existing CRB branded Disclosure application forms will continue to be accepted by the DBS until early 2013.

Change, change everywhere.....

CSAS is very aware that Counter-Signatories in Diocesan Safeguarding teams and within the Conference of Religious Office and Parish Reps are having to digest and apply recently introduced identity verification changes. Then as of last month, the change of Disclosure eligibility criteria and the Disclosure product options bring yet more change to try and absorb and understand.

As stated the updated Safer Recruitment national policies and procedures of the Catholic Church will be available online from December but in the meantime if you wish to know anymore or have questions, please get in touch with your local Diocesan Safeguarding office; CoR Counter-Signatory office or CSAS while we all get to grips with the changes.



As 2013 approaches

The new year will bring further changes as a consequence of the Protection of Freedoms Act. The anticipated changes are expected to come into effect in the Spring of 2013.

So the message is ...

WATCH THIS SPACE

The next issue of "Safeguarding Matters" is due out in early December 2012.