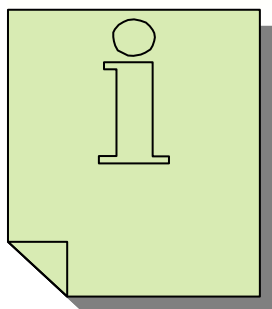


CSAS

Safeguarding Matters



Welcome to the 6th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 6th issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable people. If you have any comments to make about this issue, please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)

Vetting & Barring OR ISA?

Inside this issue:

Vetting & Barring OR ISA?

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For those of you who have attended one of the Diocesan events at which CSAS has presented, you will be aware that following the publication of Lord Bichard's report the pre-employment registration scheme was referred to as "Vetting & Barring". Subsequent to that the Home Office retitled the scheme the "Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Registration Scheme". Then on the eve of the release of our 5th issue of this Newsletter, the Home Office confirmed that the scheme would be referred to as "The Vetting & Barring Scheme". We therefore added a Stop Press to our last release.

Latest Info

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To clarify, the registration scheme will be known as the "Vetting & Barring Scheme" and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) is the decision making body regarding who is deemed unsuitable to work with vulnerable groups.

Update on ISA and the Vetting & Barring Scheme

CSAS is fortunate to be a member of a consultative group which meets directly with representatives of the Independent Safeguarding Authority to receive latest information on the progress of the implementation of this Scheme and highlight to the Home Office the ramifications of the introduction of this pre-employment vetting.

The latest information regarding the progress of the Independent Safeguarding Authority is predominantly around the redeployment of civil service staff to the new Authority and the development of a consistent decision-making framework when considering if an individual should be barred from working with vulnerable groups.

Final published Guidance concerning eligibility for registration on the Scheme is expected within the 1st quarter of 2009 and CSAS is developing a strategy for the cascade of this vital information within the Church given it's size; geographic spread and diverse nature.

CSAS was also advised at the last meeting in August with the Home Office that the phasing strategy (outlining how those already working within the Church will be registered onto the scheme) is due to be released within the "next few months."

As soon as we are in receipt of this critical information, CSAS will provide the details to Diocesan Safeguarding teams and Regional Religious Commissions etc in order that the required planning can take place within the Church.



43 Temple Row
Birmingham
B2 5LS

Phone: 0121 237 6076
Fax: 0121 237 6147

POVA First: impact of new Vetting & Barring Scheme

Many of you will be familiar with the POVAFirst check introduced by the CRB in 2006. POVAFirst provides organisations with the facility to check if a potential employee is barred from working with Vulnerable Adults per the Protection of Vulnerable Adults List. This service has been crucial to carers who are required to undertake a POVA check, and is applied in circumstances where it is necessary to avoid a fall in the staffing levels required to meet statutory obligations within Residential Care Home settings. The only setting within the Catholic Church that can obtain a POVAFirst check are our Religious Orders which run Care Homes.

With the introduction of the new Vetting & Barring scheme, CSAS has received queries concerning the future of the POVAFirst check. At initial public meetings back in 2006, the Home Office advised that the new Registration scheme would replace the POVAFirst check. More recently CSAS was informed that for the vast majority of applicants to the Vetting & Barring Scheme with no safeguarding offences or concerns, registration onto the scheme would take 7 days. This should ensure that regulated environments could maintain the appropriate minimum staffing levels. At the last meeting with representatives of ISA, it would seem that work has not progressed with regards to POVAFirst and a dialogue had not yet commenced between ISA and the regulatory bodies for Care Homes (CSCI for England and CSIW for Wales). Please rest assured that CSAS along with other affected Faith denominations stressed to the Chief Executive of ISA, the importance of referral to the regulators in this regard. ISA and the Department of Children, Schools and Families are addressing this as a matter of urgency.

12 months to go...

The new Vetting & Barring scheme comes into effect from 12th October 2009 so we are now in the last 12 months. The year ahead is going to be busy for every organisation that provides services to or works with children and/or vulnerable adults. Within the next 12 months, as a Church we need to identify those who are required to be registered onto the Scheme; ensure that we have processes and systems in place so that we don't have people working with vulnerable groups PRIOR to checking their Scheme status or getting them registered and be able to register those already working within the Church according to the phasing plan dictated by the Home Office. Any preparation we can do now, will help.



For those of you who may wish to contact CSAS, please note we recently moved from our previous home in St Pauls Square in Birmingham to offices still in Birmingham but overlooking St Philips Anglican Cathedral.

Our new contact details are:
43 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5LS
Tel: 0121 237 6076 or Fax: 0121 237 6147

**The next issue of “Safeguarding Matters” is
due out in December 2008**

