

Safeguarding Newsletter



The Diocese of
Peterborough

Emailed to clergy, licensed lay ministers, parish safeguarding officers and churchwardens in the Diocese of Peterborough.

Issue 6, February 2013

Welcome ... to the Newsletter for Safeguarding Children and Adults who may be vulnerable. You can find a printer-friendly version of this and previous Newsletters at: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguardingnews

We now refer to CRB checks as “DBS” checks!

This is because the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Independent Safeguarding Authority combined on 1 December 2012 to form the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The requirement on all organisations to notify ISA / DBS when someone is dismissed for safeguarding reasons continues.

The new DBS Form

The DBS will accept old CRB forms until 28 February 2013. To meet this deadline please send any applications on the old form to the Diocesan Office by **21 February 2013 at the very latest**. From 1 March 2013, only the new DBS application forms received will be processed by the DBS. The Diocese now has a stock of the new forms. If you need any of these please contact Sharon Welbourne

sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Reminders

1. Enhanced Criminal Record checks

There will be two types of enhanced disclosure or check. An ‘Enhanced Criminal Record plus Barred List Check’ discloses whether the individual is barred from Regulated Activity with children / vulnerable adults, as well as the convictions / cautions and other relevant information. This is only available for those in Regulated Activity (as defined in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.)

The second type of Enhanced Check provides information about convictions /cautions and other relevant information but NOT whether a person is barred from Regulated Activity, (although the decision which led to a bar may be provided by the police if the police deem it relevant for the role in question).

2. Minimum age for Criminal Record Checks

Criminal record checks are now restricted to those aged 16 or over. Countersignatories will have to be aged 18 years or over.

3. Portability

This is the term employed by the Government for using a Criminal Record disclosure obtained in one role, for a different role sometimes with a different employer or organisation. **This guidance can only be finalised following the implementation of new Government arrangements later this year when new arrangements for portability may be available.**

Meanwhile, the Church of England’s interim guidance is set out here:

There can be some portability of a criminal record disclosure within the Church as follows:

- anyone applying for a further role within the same church does not require a second criminal record check, if the work is with the same group – i.e. still with children or still with vulnerable adults.
- Where someone wishes to work/volunteer in a role with a different group (for example, someone who has volunteered at a youth club now offering to work as a driver for a housebound adults scheme) then a second criminal record check is required.

To accept a pre-existing criminal record disclosure from a body outside the church, the following requirements must be met:

- The disclosure must be completely clear (i.e. no record of cautions, convictions or further information.)
- It is less than 2 years old.
- It is at Enhanced level and for a similar position.
- The applicant’s identity is verified.
- The applicant is still in the post or job for which the disclosure was obtained.

Continued overleaf

- A reference from the previous employer or appointer is obtained to ensure that the applicant was appointed following receipt of the disclosure.
- The issue date and serial number of the disclosure is recorded together with the applicant's name and date of birth.
- A Confidential Declaration Form must be completed.

There are some circumstances where a new criminal record check should always be made:

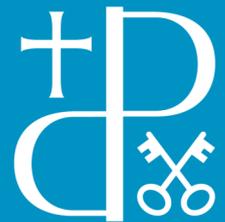
- where a person applies for an employed position working with children or vulnerable adults, and
- where a person is candidating for the ministry (Methodist Church) or seeking ordination training (Church of England) then a new criminal record check is always required. Note - once accepted for training, there is no requirement for the training institution to do a new criminal record check where the one obtained for at the stage of candidating / seeking training can be provided.

Don't forget!

You can get information about many of your safeguarding queries on line at the safeguarding pages of the Peterborough Diocese Website.

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding

Or you can ring Garry Johnson, Safeguarding Officer
01733 887000
garry.johnson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk



The Diocese of
Peterborough