

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

February 2012

The Diocese of Peterborough, The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB. Tel: 01733 887000
Emailed to clergy, licensed lay ministers, parish safeguarding officers and churchwardens
in the Diocese of Peterborough.

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/safeguarding/newsletter.htm

Vetting and barring and criminal record checks

Following the reviews into both the Vetting & Barring Scheme and the Criminal Records Regime (CRR) in 2011, a number of recommendations have been included within the Protection of Freedoms Bill (PoFB). The Bill seeks to abolish the registration and monitoring requirements, and reduce the range of posts to which barring arrangements apply ("regulated activity").

The Protection of Freedoms Bill introduced in February 2011, is now at the Lords Report stage of the legislative process. It is anticipated that the Bill will receive Royal Assent by May 2012. The relevant provisions relating to the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) and the Criminal Records Regime (CRR) are that:

- The Vetting & Barring scheme will be abolished, therefore, there will be no ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) registration scheme. However existing legislation that came in in 2009 stands until abolished.
- The CRB & ISA will be merged and the new combined body will continue to run disclosures, the barring lists and make barring decisions.
- The definition of regulated activity will be the tool by which the scope of criminal records checks and the numbers of people impacted will be managed. Although the media reports that it will be significantly scaled back, who is eligible, the level of contact and frequency is not yet clear.
- Controlled activity will not be retained, which reduces the coverage by c 500,000 people such as pharmacy and opticians assistants in retail outlets.
- The definitions of Children and Vulnerable Adults is also a mechanism by which the scheme can be scaled back.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Vetting and barring and criminal record checks
- ◆ The Independent Safeguarding authority - barring
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Don't forget!

Don't forget!

You can get information about many of your safeguarding queries on line at www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/safeguarding.htm

Or you can ring Garry Johnson, Safeguarding Officer, on 01733 887000

garry.johnson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

For CRB forms and form filling queries contact Sharon Welbourne on 01733 887027
sharon.welbourne@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Full contact details

Garry Johnson, Safeguarding Officer,
(for all concerns of harm to children
or vulnerable adults):

Diocese of Peterborough,
Diocesan Office, The Palace, Minster
Precincts, Peterborough, PE1 1YB

T 01733 887041

E garry.johnson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

- The CRB Disclosure will become fully portable and employers will be able to check (on-line) for updates.
- The CRB Disclosure will be sent to the applicant who can show it to employers, who will not get a copy directly *
- Penalties will be introduced for employers who knowingly do unnecessary checks, supervised by the Information Commissioner.

* the government has responded to all of the concerns raised about only issuing a single certificate to the applicant and now plans to inform the registered body upon request when a certificate has been issued and whether it is a clear (unblemished) disclosure.

Changes to Criminal Records Bureau checking are not expected to be implemented until at least the autumn of this year. In the meantime, CRB checks should continue "business as usual". Use of current forms obtainable from Sharon Welbourne (see previous page), renewals every five years. For guidance on who is currently eligible for CRB checks in the church please see Roles in the Church and CRB Disclosure. For more guidance on completing the CRB application form please also see 'An applicant's guide to completing the CRB application'.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA): barring

Parishes/the Diocese have a duty to refer to the Independent Safeguarding Authority for Barring from work with children and adults any person, paid or volunteer, who holds a position of authority in the church and has either been dismissed from their position, or would have been dismissed, because of harm or potential harm done to a child or vulnerable adult.

This is a duty regardless of whether there is a conviction or there has been a criminal process. The decision for barring rests with the ISA, and unless the offence committed results in automatic barring, the person concerned has a right of representation.

If an allegation is made against a church officer – anyone who holds a position of authority in your church – then the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer should always be informed, and the diocese and parish works in partnership to ensure safe and caring practice. You will be assisted with making a referral to the ISA. Please be vigilant about this.

Training - safeguarding children and adults who may be vulnerable

The courses shown in the next column are for incumbents, priests-in-charge, curates, non-stipendiary ordained ministers, priests with permission to officiate, any licensed or commissioned lay ministers – readers, lay pastoral ministers, licensed evangelists, parish safeguarding officers and churchwardens - who have not had safeguarding training before or within the last three years.

New for this year is Safeguarding Adults who may be vulnerable (basic awareness).

Do check the dates and venues shown on the right and make your booking.

Training dates

Safeguarding Adults who may be vulnerable (basic awareness)

Saturday 25 February 2012 at Bouverie Court, Northampton (9.30am – 1.00pm)

Thursday 8 March 2012 at The Cedar Centre, Castor, nr Peterborough (9.30am – 1.00pm)

Thursday 22 March 2012 at Bouverie Court Northampton (9.30am – 1.00pm)

Safeguarding Children who may be vulnerable (basic awareness)

Wednesday 18 April 2012 at Bouverie Court, Northampton (9.30am -1.00pm)

Thursday 10 May 2012 at Bouverie Court, Northampton (9.30am-1.00pm)

Wednesday 23 May 2012 at The Cedar Centre, Castor, nr Peterborough (9.30am – 1.00pm)

To book for any of these courses please email garry.johnson@peterborough-diocese.org.uk