

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

We have received a number of queries from parishes who wish to mobilise their volunteers to help others in the community. We have therefore prepared the following guidance to assist you in ensuring the appropriate safeguarding protocols continue to be upheld, during the Covid-19 outbreak.

All volunteers should continue to be safely recruited, with an enhanced DBS check

- The rules on DBS checking still apply, and particularly if the volunteer is undertaking responsibilities such as shopping, preparing meals, driving and/or picking up prescriptions.
- Volunteers who are undertaking regulated activities, such as collecting shopping lists and the money to pay for the shopping, will still require an enhanced DBS with a barred list check, and any organisation who makes arrangements for people to work in regulated activities are responsible for ensuring they are safe to do so.
- As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, the DBS has made some temporary changes to its ID checking guidelines. Please click [here](#) for further information.
- The normal route for portability of DBS checks is through the [Update Service](#), and we advise parishes to use this process when a re-check is required for someone who has a DBS certificate from another organisation. The Update Service allows you to check the workforce type and level of check on the individual's certificate. If these do not match with the type or level of DBS certificate you need for them to carry out your role, they will need to complete another DBS application on-line.
- As Safer Recruitment remains in effect amid the Covid-19 outbreak, parishes will need to ensure they manage and prioritise their volunteer roles in the most effective way they can, and the following links provide some good practice guidelines in regard to this.

<https://www.goodneighbours.org.uk/News/coronavirus-19>

<https://scvo.org.uk/support/covid-19>

All face-to-face training courses have been cancelled until the end of May 2020

- The on-line Basic Awareness and Foundation courses are still available to access [here](#)
- We will be rescheduling the Thirtyone:eight Lead Recruitment Training to later in the year. However, Parish Recruiters can also book onto a Webinar about DBS Checks and Eligibility through the Thirtyone:eight website if they wish. Webinars cost £35 and can be booked by clicking [here](#).

We will continue to provide you with safeguarding updates as things evolve, but please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you require further guidance.

You can contact us by clicking [here](#)

Finally, thank you for the work you are doing in these difficult times, and we wish you all good health.