

ISSUE
05
SUMMER 2010

Safeguarding Matters!

In this issue:

Government Announcement — VBS
Vulnerable Adults Training
Using Facebook Safely



WELCOME

Welcome to the summer edition of Safeguarding Matters.

We would like to thank those of you who came in person to collect the new 2010 Safeguarding Handbooks, it was lovely to meet you all! Extra copies of the handbook are available at £5.00 each, however we also have several full sets of the handbook inserts, which we are happy to send out on request free of charge. We can also send out a full set of the forms on e-mail if you need them, or you can access the whole handbook on our website www.portsmouth.anglican.org

In this edition, we will be updating you about the latest news on the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS), including the New Application Form timetable.

The aim of our newsletter is to keep you up-to-date with local and national safeguarding issues, and to draw your attention to specific news items. We also welcome your views and any ideas for future issues.

I wish you all a good summer!

Mary Daisy
Assistant Safeguarding Adviser

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS IN CHURCH AWARENESS TRAINING

This two hour workshop is now available for parishes to book.

In view of the high demand for Safeguarding Children in Church training, we have no spare capacity to run the Safeguarding Adults workshop on Saturdays until 2011.

However, parishes who would like to book this training, on a weekday, at their church should contact Theresa Winship or myself.

The workshop is suitable for Incumbents, Safeguarding Representatives, Pastoral Visitors and workers/volunteers who are involved in activities with vulnerable adults.

The workshop will provide attendees with an understanding of :

- Who is a vulnerable adult
- What is meant by abuse and how to recognise the signs and indicators
- What to do if you suspect abuse occurring and who to report concerns to

VETTING AND BARRING - UPDATE

On the 15th June 2010 the Government announced their intention to remodel the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) back to 'proportionate, commonsense levels'. As a result, the ISA-registration stage of the scheme has been stopped and will therefore NOT launch on the 26th July as planned.



Although the full details and scope of this remodel are still to be finalised, the safeguarding regulations under the Vetting and Barring Scheme introduced in October 2009 will continue to apply.

These include:

ISA Barred Lists

A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with these groups.

An organisation which knowingly employs someone who is barred from working with vulnerable groups will also be breaking the law.

Parishes won't know whether an individual has been barred unless they do a CRB check. Therefore, anyone who wishes to work or volunteer with children or in activities which include vulnerable adults must be asked to complete a CRB application form BEFORE they start work.

Referral to the ISA

It is still mandatory for organisations to report to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) anyone who has been removed or suspended from employment or a voluntary post due to a safeguarding incident, or who would have removed or suspended if they had not left. Parishes must inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team of any situations in respect of this, who will provide advice and support in considering or making a referral to the ISA.

Regulated Activity

In October 2009, the right to ask for an enhanced CRB disclosure was extended to all those who employ or use volunteers in activities of a specified nature called 'Regulated Activity'. This right remains, and therefore parishes should continue to carry out appropriate pre-recruitment checks including CRB checks, using the CRB risk assessment flowchart .



Regulated activity covers anyone working closely with children and/or vulnerable adults, either paid or unpaid, and is contact of a specified nature including teaching training, instruction, care, supervision, advice, treatment. And/or transportation.

VETTING AND BARRING - UPDATE

New Application Form Timetable

Despite ISA registration being halted, the CRB has decided to continue to launch the new CRB application form from the 26th July 2010.

In view of this parishes should now destroy all their current stocks of (white) CRB applications, as the Diocesan Safeguarding Office is no longer accepting them for processing.

We currently have limited stocks of the new purple CRB application form, which we can distribute on request to parishes from the 19th July. As we are unable to order any new supplies of the form from the CRB until the 26th July, we can only allow a maximum of ten per parish on a first come first serve basis. Therefore, we ask you not to order more than you actually need at this time.

From the 26th July, the CRB will start to process all applications for CRB checks on the new form.

We have included a new CRB Application Form Guide with this newsletter to help Identity Validators check and validate the information provided, and ensure the form is completed accurately before it is processed.

CRB Renewals

The current suspension of all CRB renewals has now been lifted, and therefore parishes can continue with their normal arrangements for CRB applications, both new and renewal on the purple application form from 26th July.

If you have any queries about the above, please contact Theresa Winship, Safeguarding Administrator on Tel: 023 92 899655

The image displays two screenshots of the CRB application form. The left screenshot shows the 'Personal Details' section, including fields for name, address, date of birth, and contact information. The right screenshot shows the 'References' section, which includes a table for listing referees and their contact details. Both screenshots show the form's layout with various fields and instructions.

All About FACE BOOK



We are getting more and more enquiries from parishes about Social networking sites, especially Facebook. These sites are very popular with children, as it is a good way of allowing them to keep in touch with their friends. Because it is a good way of engaging with young people, some youth leaders are keen to set up Facebook accounts with their youth groups, but this has caused some concern from parish Safeguarding Representatives because of the potential for misuse.

What is Facebook?

Facebook is an enormous free social networking site with hundreds and millions of users all over the world. To use Facebook, users have to sign up with their e-mail address, name, gender, date of birth and password. This gives the user a profile page, which is then populated by answering questions on Facebook's forms. The questions are designed to help the user create connections with people as well as displaying things they like, e.g. books, movies, etc. The user also has the option to upload a photo of themselves. Users can limit who sees their information, as well as who can write on their page by using Facebook's privacy settings, therefore, restricting who can see their profile to friends only, for example.

Safety and Privacy

Safety and Privacy are the two major issues with Facebook. While it can be a useful, fun way for teenagers to stay in touch it does have its downsides. The type of risks include cyber bullying, invasion of privacy, identity theft, a child seeing offensive images and messages and the presence of strangers who may be online in order to 'groom' children.

In view of this, there needs to be good communication between the church, youth workers, young people and parents in agreeing a written protocol around how young people use Facebook safely, and the management of interaction between the church and young people in ensuring accountability.

- Agree to abide by Facebook's own rules, therefore it should not be used by people under the age of 13 years.
- Help young people to adopt good on-line habits, and set rules about what to post, including the content and extent of information and photos that may be shared
- Put in place adequate privacy controls, and cut off communication times, e.g. a watershed in the evening after which time members should not communicate with each other.

Where possible, we would recommend youth groups have a specific youth group account which should only contain members within the group, and is subject to their parents consent. More information about this can be found in the 2010 Safeguarding Procedures Section 2D.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Facebook and the Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre have joined forces to make young people safer online by launching the new 'ClickCEOP' application. This adds a new page to the profile which links to advice to staying safe on-line and a place to report anything that may worry a user.