

Safeguarding Matters

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WELCOME

Welcome to the winter edition of Safeguarding Matters.

Throughout 2009 and 2010, over 500 volunteers and workers in parishes have attended our Safeguarding training workshops. Many of you who came shared your experiences with the group and made positive suggestions on how we can improve our service to you.

We would like to thank all of you for giving up your precious time to come to our training, and to reinforce our belief that that parishes are taking their responsibilities very seriously in respect of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

In this edition, we will be updating you about the latest news on the Vetting and Barring Scheme and giving you some tips about the new CRB application form.

Also, there are the 2011 training workshop dates for your diary, and we hope to see lots more of you next year!

We wish you all a Blessed & Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*from the
Diocesan Safeguarding Team*



FACTS AND FIGURES

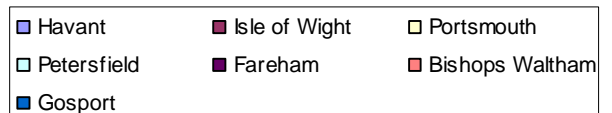
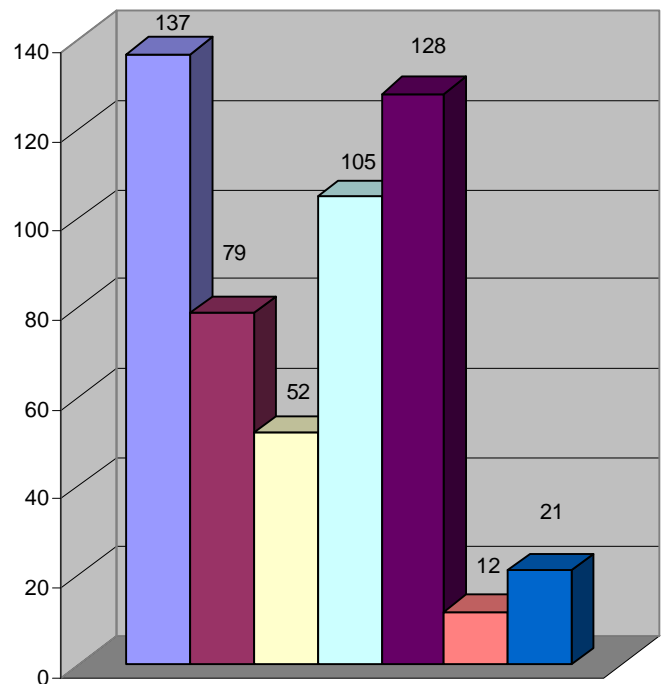
Number of Parishes in the Portsmouth Diocese

142 (includes 173 different churches)

Number of CRB applications processed in 2009/10

2000

Number of training delegates in 2009/10 by Deanery (East and West Wight combined)



VETTING AND BARRING - UPDATE

Following the announcement in June 2010 about the Government's intention to remodel the Vetting and Barring Scheme, the Home Secretary, Theresa May has issued a further statement on the 22nd October 2010 to the House of Commons. The Statement reads:

VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME REMODELLING

I announced on 15 June that further implementation of the Vetting and Barring Scheme would be halted pending a review of the scheme. Together with my Rt Hon Friends the Secretaries of State for Education and Health, I am today announcing the terms of reference for this review which we have collectively agreed.

The Review will be thorough and consider afresh the principles and objectives of the scheme and recommend what, if any, scheme is now needed. The Review will be developed by officials working jointly across our three departments and recommendations are expected early in the New Year. In parallel, a review of the criminal records regimes will take place, led by the Independent Government Advisor for Criminality Information Management, Mrs Sunita Mason. This will be undertaken in two phases and will report firstly on employment vetting systems which involve the Criminal Records Bureau, followed by a report on the broader regime.

The protection of children and vulnerable adults must be paramount. But we must also ensure that arrangements are proportionate and support a trusting, caring society where well meaning people are encouraged rather than deterred.

The recommendations of the review are expected early next year. In the meantime, and during the review process, parishes should continue to process CRB applications in the normal way.

We also recommend that Safeguarding Representatives and/or Identity Validators make a note of the CRB website address below, as this will be updated with any new information as it is received.

CRB website - www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) website is www.isa.gov.org.uk



CRB APPLICATION FORM

The new CRB forms have been available for 3 months now and appear to be much easier to fill in. However there are still a few areas where common mistakes are being made which may delay the processing of these applications. We have listed below some common mistakes to look out for:

1. If the answer is yes for A20 National Insurance number, A22 Driving Licence or A24 Passport the subsequent fields must be filled in or the form will be returned.
2. The verification boxes, A21, A23 and A25 should only be filled in by the ID Validator if they have seen the related documentation.
3. Section Y is for the Countersignatory to sign and MUST NOT be filled in by the ID Validator or applicant.
4. If the applicant is a volunteer please ensure that the 'Yes' box in Section X68 is crossed as refunds will no longer be given in the event of an error.

More tips for filling in the CRB application form can be found on the CRB website at www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/guidance

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING WORKSHOP DATES 2011

The 2011 Safeguarding Training Workshops are as follows:



Saturday 29th January 9.30am-1.00pm	Safeguarding Children in Church	Hayling Island St Andrew's Church Hall, Southwood Road, PO11 9QW
Saturday 12th February 10.00am-12.00pm	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	Portsmouth Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB
Saturday 19th March 10.00am-12.00pm	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	Isle of Wight St John the Baptist Church Hall, Drake Road, Newport, PO30 1EQ
Wednesday 13th April 10.00am-12.00pm	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	Havant St John the Baptist, Redhill Road, Rowlands Castle, PO9 6DF
Saturday 21st May 9.30am—1.00pm	Safeguarding Children in Church	Portsmouth Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB
Saturday 11th June 10.00am-12.00pm	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	Gosport Alverstoke Parish Centre, Green Road, PO12 2ET
Saturday 2nd July 9.30am-1.00pm	Safeguarding Children in Church	Isle of Wight St John the Baptist, Newport, PO30 1EQ

To book a place on any of the above workshops, please contact Theresa Winship on Tel: 023 92 899677 or e-mail theresa.winship@portsmouth.anglican.org

The above training is dependent upon a minimum numbers of participants registering to attend, and we reserve the right to cancel training if there are insufficient delegates.

We also welcome bookings from parishes who wish to organise their own safeguarding training workshop, and you should contact Theresa Winship to discuss this.

FIRST AID TRAINING

We have sourced a local training provider who is willing to run a basic awareness course in First Aid at Peninsular House.

Parishes who are interested in nominating individuals for this should contact Theresa Winship and express their interest in the first instance.

There will be a small cost per person for this course depending upon the final number of delegates. Please could you let Theresa know by the end of December in order that we can book a course in the New Year if there is sufficient interest.



Prepared for the Worst



It is very difficult for most people to imagine that an adult, especially one that a child loves and trusts, would hurt a child in any way. When a child reveals abuse, our first reaction may be 'Oh no, s/he would never do such a thing'. Yet every day, parents, family members or those who come into contact with children as part of their work are confronted with the revelation that a child has been abused.

There are many reasons a child may decide to tell that they have been abused. Sometimes the child finds out that the perpetrator is abusing other children and tells in order to protect the other children. Younger children (pre-school age) are more likely to accidentally disclose abuse while school age children more often make purposeful disclosures. Adolescent girls may disclose sexual abuse as they begin dating and seeking to develop relationships with those their own age.

As someone who comes into contact with children as part of your work (either paid or voluntary), you are likely to be in the position of hearing a disclosure of abuse. How you respond to that disclosure is very important.

Believe the Child Possibly the most important thing you can do for a child is to let them know that you believe their statements about being abused. Abuse can thrive in secrecy and once the secret is made public it is much more difficult for the abuse to continue. It is also very important to understand that the child may have fears about disclosing abuse. The perpetrator may have told the child that no-one would believe them if the child tells. When this prediction appears to come true, the child may feel helpless and believe the perpetrator. The child may feel even more hopeless and trapped if they disclose abuse and are not believed. You may not be able to assist the child immediately in getting out of an abusive situation, but the child needs to know that there is an adult who believes them and will help them.

Provide a safe, private place to talk Listen to what the child is saying, and try not to interrupt or ask lots of questions. Let him or her tell you at their own pace, and don't worry if s/he stops talking for a while—silences are OK. You don't have to rush to fill in the gaps.

Let the child know they are not the only one who has been abused Many children are abused each year. However, because abuse, especially sexual abuse, thrives in an environment of silence and most children do not talk about their abuse in public, many victims have no idea that abuse happens to other children. Acknowledge their trust in disclosing to you and highlight their courage and strength in taking positive action.

Don't make promises you cannot keep For many of us, our first reaction to finding out that a child is being harmed may be to reassure the child that they will be safe from that harm. Unfortunately, you do not have the ability to remove an alleged offender from his/her home or to absolutely ensure the child's safety. It is the job of professionals to investigate child abuse cases. Sometimes there may not be enough evidence to arrest someone or even take the child out of the home, therefore it is important not to make promises which are not within your own ability to keep. Whether a child is safe or not, it is important for them to know that you are a person they can trust and who will tell them the truth. You can help the child cope with a difficult situation by providing on-going support or just being there for them.

If you have any concerns about a child or receive a disclosure of abuse, you should contact your Safeguarding Representative or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team immediately.

If you do not speak out we cannot help