

CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Welcome to the 28th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the regular Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. Should you have any comments—please email CSAS Admin— admin@csas.uk.net

SAFER RECRUITMENT

2013 has been a year of further change to Safer Recruitment practices as a consequence of the Government launching Phase 2 of the Protection of Freedoms Act. The changes have been significant with the:

- Introduction of the Single Certificate (Applicant Only)
- Launch of the Online Update
- Launch of Online Status Check services.

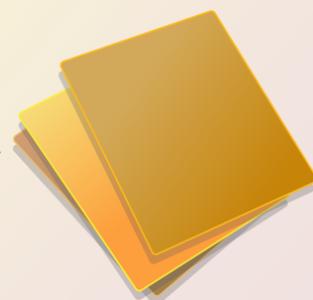
In addition there have been practice changes to accommodate for example the inclusion of the “Workforce” on line X61 of the DBS Application Form.

It is therefore great to report to everyone that, despite all of these revisions to policy and process, the overall DBS error rate for CSAS as a Registered Body is below 4% which has been commended by our designated DBS Account Manager. This amazing achievement could not have happened were it not for the committed efforts of everyone involved in Safer Recruitment from those verifying identity of applicants in parishes and religious orders through to those checking and counter-signing applications at Safeguarding Office level. So as a new year approaches please take time to recognise what you have accomplished in 2013 through your contribution to the Safer Recruitment efforts of the Church.



DISCLOSURE PROCESSING SUCCESS

CSAS officially opened its new Disclosure processing unit on the Apr 1st 2013. In the time since, we have successfully processed over three hundred applications from roles all around England and Wales. This is an impressive achievement, especially with the impact of the single certificate (applicant only) procedure introduced by the DBS on 17th July this year. We have been able to support safeguarding in the Church through these DBS checks and would like to thank you for the effort you have put into enabling this to happen. Our systems have become more efficient over time and the recent introduction of a new disclosure certificate procedure (being rolled out over this month and into 2014) means that your verification process is quicker, will leave you without applicants to chase and a faster overall process from CSAS. Thank you for all of your support in 2013 and we hope for more successes in 2014 and beyond.



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TRAINING

The Catholic Church in England and Wales now has a new training program for safeguarding learning... take a look!
<http://www.csaslearningdevelopment.co.uk>

In the last issue of Safeguarding Matters we highlighted the Provincial Events held during 2012/13 where Clergy & Religious came together to consider 'safeguarding as ministry', exploring the values, beliefs and attitudes that connect priestly/religious vocation with safeguarding.

Eighty three members of the clergy attended the provincial events and their input significantly influenced the development of the new national training program for Clergy and Safeguarding Representatives, where a great deal of emphasis is placed on safeguarding being seen as integral to ministry.

This year the new training pack for Clergy and Safeguarding Representatives was piloted in three dioceses: Hallam; Brentwood and Plymouth.

The new training programme has two parts:

Computer Assisted Training: aimed at providing a basic introduction of safeguarding.

Face to Face Training: aimed at ensuring those with specific key roles within the Catholic Church understand safeguarding as integral to ministry and feel confident and competent in promoting safeguarding within the parish / community.

Module: 1 Safeguarding as Ministry - Contextual Understanding

Module 2: Protecting the Young and the Vulnerable

Module 3: Creating a Safe Environment – Policy and Practice



How can we ensure that a culture of safeguarding is promoted throughout the church?

Training is an investment not only in the individuals attending, but in promoting the values of the church... you cannot have effective evangelisation in an unsafe place.

There is no doubt that training carries a cost, but is not as costly as failing to train appropriately! The new training programme provides an opportunity to demonstrate commitment to making the Church a safe place to be. If we are to capitalise on the progress made to-date we need strong leadership, and a serious commitment to ensure all are competent and confident to promote a culture of safeguarding.

RELIGIOUS ALIGNMENT

The alignment of all religious orders in England and Wales with a Safeguarding Commission commenced in April of this year. Despite this being a difficult task, within just one year, CSAS has managed to identify and contact 311 religious orders with the view of aligning them to a commission. Of these orders, 264 have successfully signed up and are now aligned to a commission, who will provide safeguarding support for each Order. A small number of Orders either have their own commission or have combined to form a commission. We are very happy with the success of this development. The feedback we have received from both Religious Clergy and safeguarding coordinators is that relationships are developing well. In many places inclusion of the Religious has undoubtedly enriched the composition and work of the commission.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

NB: The CSAS office will be closed from 24/12-02/01 inclusive.