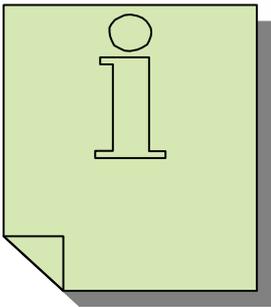


COPCA

Safeguarding Matters



Welcome to the 4th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 4th issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that COPCA releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable people. If you have any comments to make about this issue, please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@copca.org.uk)

How much will registration onto the ISA scheme cost?

The Home Office announced on 1st April 2008 that the cost of ISA will be £64. This cost comprises of £28 in respect of the administration to be registered onto the Scheme. A further £36 is in respect of an Enhanced CRB Disclosure. This is required in order to establish if the applicant should be registered or referred to the Independent Barring Board for consideration to bar.

There will be no cost to those who are volunteers (as per the CRB definition).

How will the barred lists and the ISA scheme register be accessed?

Only authorised bodies will be able to establish if a person is registered on the ISA scheme or barred. It is anticipated that these bodies will include existing CRB Registered Bodies. "Employers" will only be able to check online if a person is on the ISA register by entering a reference number to evidence their entitlement to check the register.

It will not be possible for members of the public or indeed those employing childcare or carer services in the home to check the list without going via an authorised body. They must show they have a legitimate entitlement to check that a specific person is registered.

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How quickly will an applicant be registered onto the ISA scheme?

The Home Office recently advised COPCA that the CRB (who will provide the administration of 90+% of applicants who have no relevant safeguarding convictions) anticipate that it will take 7 days from receipt of application to registration onto the scheme.

Will the ISA registration process be separate from the CRB application process?

No. The CRB are currently revising the Disclosure Application Form to make the application form simpler. This will incorporate a small section where the applicant can indicate if they require ISA scheme registration.



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In order to be registered on the ISA scheme, will everyone need to be CRB checked again?

In order to be registered onto the Scheme, an Enhanced CRB Disclosure has to be undertaken as part of the process. The Disclosure enables the CRB to identify if there are any relevant warnings, cautions or convictions that may warrant a person to be barred or (as in the majority of instances) the person has no relevant convictions and can therefore be registered onto the Scheme to work with vulnerable groups.

It is important to note that when the Church commenced using CRB checks, the intention was to recheck everyone every 3 years. However due to the large number of volunteers who had yet to be CRB checked once, COPCA made the decision to not recheck and instead focus resources on the continuation of CRB checks for the volunteer groups. Therefore the registration onto ISA does not generate additional work as such but actually replaces the work that would have had to take place to recheck everyone in the Church as per the original Policy.

If a person works with children or vulnerable adults with a number of organisations, through which organisation do they register?

This is an area that the Home Office are developing as part of the phased implementation plan to get the existing "workforce" (all those working currently with children or vulnerable adults) registered onto the Scheme.

Once guidance is published regarding this area of the Scheme COPCA will ensure this is cascaded throughout the Church.

As the "employer", does ISA mean I won't receive a CRB Disclosure for the applicant?

Assuming that the applicant needs to be registered onto the Scheme, if the individual applies via the organisation, the Church will receive their copy of the Enhanced Disclosure Certificate which will advise that the individual has been Scheme registered or barred. The individual will also receive their copy of the Disclosure Certificate and either their unique ISA registration number or notification of their barred status.



COPCA has been on the road...

As mentioned in the last issue of "Safeguarding Matters", COPCA started a series of events in Dioceses from mid-April.

At the time of releasing this newsletter, we have carried out 13 events providing an introduction to ISA and highlighting the move from child protection to safeguarding. Across these events to date we have presented to in excess of 800 people and we thank all those who have taken the time to attend.

We have received an interesting range of comments and questions. Some of those very questions have helped inform this edition of "Safeguarding Matters".

For those Dioceses we have yet to visit, we look forward to visiting you soon.

The next issue of "Safeguarding Matters" is due out in August 2008