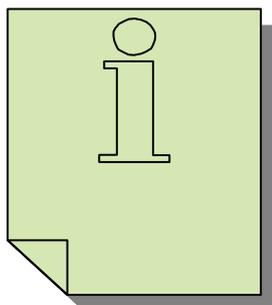


CSAS

Safeguarding Matters



Welcome to the 5th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 5th issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that CSAS 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@csas.uk.net)

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As you are aware COPCA/CSAS has been travelling around England & Wales over the last 4 month presenting information regarding the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the work of Safeguarding within the Church.

These events have been so affirming and we appreciate how many people have come along and given up their valuable time to attend the presentations. We are however not surprised at the level of commitment people show to the work of safeguarding within their Parishes and Religious Orders.

As stated in "Safeguarding with Confidence" (the Cumberlege Commission Report)

"The Church is now a safer place."

Thanks for the questions and feedback to the events which have helped inform this issue of Safeguarding Matters.

If I work for various organisations that require ISA registration, which organisation registers me?

All people currently working with vulnerable groups will be registered onto the Scheme over a 5 year phased period based on the date of your Disclosure. This phasing will be applied across all sectors and organisations. It is likely that you will be registered by whichever organisation processed a Disclosure at the earliest date for you and therefore needs to register you within the earlier phasing period.

Once I am ISA registered, presumably I won't need to be CRB checked for any organisation I work with or future role I undertake?

Whilst ISA registration will be mandatory to work with vulnerable groups to confirm that there is "no known reason" why you may not work with children or vulnerable adults, many organisations will still require that you complete a Disclosure application. This is to enable the organisation as the employer to be aware of any convictions, cautions or warnings which are relevant to the role applied for.



The Independent Safeguarding Authority have determined that the Scheme will be known by its original title "The Vetting and Barring Scheme" (VBS).

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How will I know which roles within my Parish / Religious Order will require ISA registration?

The Home Office are still working on fleshing out the eligibility definitions to enable organisations to have clarity over which roles will require individuals to be members of the Scheme. CSAS are working with other faith denominations to produce a single communication to the Home Office informing them of the nature of roles within a Church context in order that the Home Office can then confirm the types of roles included and excluded from the Scheme.

Once this confirmation is received from the Home Office CSAS will release this information to Dioceses and Religious Orders and this will be cascaded to Parishes.

Does every helper and volunteer at a parish fête need to be ISA registered?

Only those people who are working with children or vulnerable adults require to be ISA registered. Therefore unless a specific group or activity is involved where children are supervised by a group leader as opposed to them being looked after by their parents or guardians, ISA registration for helpers or volunteers would not be necessary as the event is a general event for the parish community.

As I have already been CRB checked for my role in the Church, presumably my CRB registration will transfer onto the new ISA scheme automatically?

The CRB Disclosure is NOT a registration scheme and therefore a past CRB check will not result in you automatically being registered with ISA. This is because the CRB Disclosure is a “snapshot” in time and has no real validity after the date the Disclosure is printed. Consequently CRB Disclosures processed cannot be “registered” onto ISA as relevant convictions or cautions could have occurred in the period between the Disclosure being released and ISA registration taking place. Additionally an individual registers for membership of the ISA scheme and therefore each person needs to indicate their wish to be registered onto the Scheme.



Goodbye to COPCA, hello to CSAS

As of 1st July 2008, COPCA ceased to exist and CSAS came into effect. CSAS (Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service) is based in Birmingham at the address formerly known as COPCA. The full website will be available soon at www.csas.uk.net

The CRB have been notified of the change and the Registered Body name is now CSAS. Please be assured that Disclosure applications which show COPCA are still accepted by the CRB and so do not worry if you are awaiting forms to be completed and returned within your parishes and Religious Orders — they can still be processed!

The next issue of “Safeguarding Matters” is due out in October 2008

