

COPCA

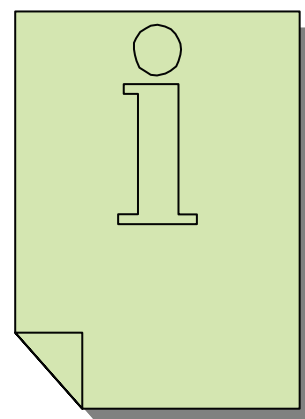
# Safeguarding Matters

## Welcome to the 1st issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 1st issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that COPCA will release to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable people.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to keep you informed on the new Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme; what it means to the Church and the practical implications associated to the new scheme which becomes effective from Autumn 2008.

We hope you find this to be a valuable resource and any input or suggestions are gratefully received. If you have any comments to make about this issue, please email COPCA via Sally Robinson ( [sally.robinson@copca.org.uk](mailto:sally.robinson@copca.org.uk) )



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## What is ISA?

ISA (previously known as Vetting & Barring) stands for Independent Safeguarding Authority and has come into existence following the high profile case of Ian Huntley who murdered 2 schoolgirls in Soham in 2003. Following this incident, the Home Secretary commissioned Lord Bichard to carry out an Inquiry.

In June 2004, the Bichard Report was published and this Report contained 31 recommendations which were all accepted in principle by the Government. Recommendation 19 of this Report stated

**"New arrangements should be introduced requiring those who wish to work with children, or vulnerable adults, to be registered. The register would confirm that there is no known reason why an individual should not work with this client group."**

Following this, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 was brought in and this defines the scope of the new scheme.

The ISA scheme will integrate existing lists (i.e. List 99; Protection of Children Act list etc) and provide pre-employment vetting of applicants who work with children and/or vulnerable adults.

The scheme aims to avoid harm or risk of harm to children and vulnerable adults and achieves this by preventing those deemed unsuitable to work with these groups, from gaining access via their work. This scheme, *in the same vein as the existing CRB Disclosure system*, is only one element of safe & professional recruitment.

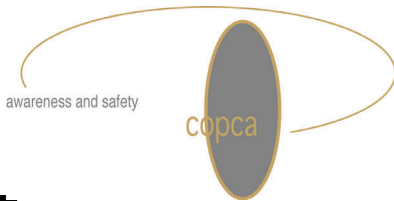
Therefore all those wishing to work with children and/or vulnerable adults will be required to be registered with the Scheme in order to be able to take up OR continue in that role.

### Did you know....

***That the new ISA scheme is estimated to cover a workforce of approximately 10 million including up to 4 million volunteers.***

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## How will this Scheme work?

An Independent Barring Board (IBB) is being established which will have access to a wide range of information from a variety of sources including referrals from employers in addition to statutory authorities amongst others.

The IBB will own the barred list; absorb all discretionary decisions currently taken by the Secretary of State and make decisions based on clear evidence & criteria.

More information on the barred list and how people will become barred will appear in a future issue of "Safeguarding Matters".

It will be a criminal offence for an organisation to employ (this includes Clergy, Religious, employees; post holders AND volunteers) a person to a role working with children and/or vulnerable adults, where the individual is barred. Similarly it will be a criminal offence for an organisation to employ a person to work with children and/or vulnerable adults and fail to check if the individual has been registered with the Scheme in order to check their suitability.

Due to the large numbers of people who will need to be checked via this scheme, it will be phased in over a period of time (yet to be confirmed by the Home Office) and all organisations & sectors will have to adhere to the prescribed timescale.

## How does this scheme affect the Church?

This scheme will mean that **all those working with children and / or vulnerable adults OR working in ancillary support roles within adult social care and educational settings MUST be members of the ISA scheme.**

Within the Church this applies to:

- Clergy
- Religious
- Employees
- Post holders
- Volunteers

In order to ensure that no one working within the Church who is required to

be submitted to the scheme is overlooked or omitted, definitive lists must be obtained and maintained for all those working in each parish, Diocese, Religious Congregation and all associated Diocesan & Religious activities (i.e. Care Homes).

These lists, at some agreed point during 2008, will be submitted to COPCA to identify which of those listed have already been checked through the CRB Disclosure system. The phased implementation of this scheme is likely to be based on if and when a Disclosure was obtained for each individual. This submission of Church lists will enable COPCA to carry out an automated cross-referencing to the existing National



CRB Database. COPCA will then produce for each Diocese and Religious Order a list of those who are likely to be the 1st priority tranche for submission to the Scheme and provide details of those who have had a Disclosure and the date of that CRB check in order to assist with the phased implementation of the new Scheme.

**The next issue of "Safeguarding Matters" is due out in February 2008 so.....**

**WATCH  
THIS  
SPACE**