

Thursday 17 June 2010

Changes in Checking 'on hold', CRB checks continue

You may be aware that on 15th June the Home Secretary has announced that the new Vetting and Barring Scheme, to be run by the Independent Safeguarding Authority, has been put on hold for a review and is likely to be 'scaled back'. This means:

- The new scheme will **not** now come into force on 26th July
- The briefing session on this, 'Changes in Checking' scheduled for 22nd July at Dunham House is now **cancelled**
- Much of the information given at the 12 'Changes in Checking' Roadshows is now no longer relevant and is **withdrawn**
- The ISA / VBS Briefing Paper 2, produced by me in January 2010, is now **withdrawn**. A new briefing paper will be issued once the Government has conducted the review.
- The requirement for churches to alert Barbara Selley (Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser) if you discipline or dismiss a volunteer or staff member for any serious matters relating to children, young people or vulnerable adults **remains in place** along with the other provisions of the act that came in last October. It may be a criminal offence not to do so.

Criminal Records Bureau had partially suspended their work in order to prepare for the new scheme, but CRB is now '**open for business**' as usual. This means:

- Any churches that **urgently** need to do checks on new volunteers (not renewals) can now do so again if they have stocks of the 'old' CRB application form. Completed 'old' forms must reach us by July 9th. CRB will not process 'old' forms after 20th July. We do not have any stocks of the 'old' form to send out
- From the beginning of July churches can apply to us for 'new' forms, which CRB will be accepting and processing from 26th July
- We will continue the 'renewals' process in due course using the 'new' forms, following our normal month-by-month pattern
- The criteria for which roles qualify for checking are as before, not the new criteria that we were introducing in connection with the new scheme. If you have any doubt about whether someone should be checked, please ask
- CRB remains a key part of a proper recruitment and checking system for all appointments (paid or voluntary), which also includes a confidential declaration, references and role descriptions before they start work
- The 'new' form was designed for the Vetting and Barring scheme, so there are sections on it that are no longer required. Please ask those applying to read the Guidance Notes very carefully before filling the form in
- The 'new' form makes the work of the Identity Checker more difficult. Please read the Guidance Notes very carefully before checking ID and filling in the relevant sections

Again, my apologies for all these changes, which I too find rather frustrating! In essence from July CRB is back to normal, for the same people that we were checking as before, but on a new form. If you have any queries please contact me. nick@southwell.anglican.org