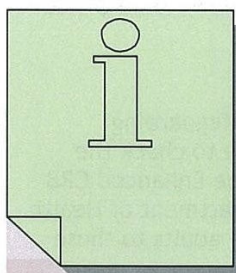


CSAS

Safeguarding Matters



Welcome to the 10th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 10th issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. If you have any comments to make about this issue, please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)

The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) and the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) were established on 1st July 2008 following the recommendations in the Cumberlege Report "Safeguarding with Confidence."

Inside this issue:

NCSC & CSAS 1 - 1 year on

This month sees the 1st anniversary which seems a good opportunity to summarise the work of the NCSC so far.

VBS— latest 2 news

For details about the membership of the NCSC and also to see agendas and minutes of their meetings, go to their website on www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk which went live in April this year.

Review Process

A review may be requested of a recommendation made by a Safeguarding Commission before a decision has been made by a Bishop/Congregation Leader. The protocol for these reviews have been agreed and circulated. A pool of people to act as review panel members has been recruited and trained following a national recruitment campaign. Twenty people have been appointed with a range of relevant expertise and experience including a number of Canon Lawyers. Four reviews have commenced to date.

Independent Investigation

A protocol has been developed to pilot independent investigations in the Northern Province covering seven Dioceses and two Regional Religious Commissions. These investigations will be undertaken once the Statutory Services enquiries are concluded following an allegation or concern and where risk is evident but the case does not proceed to court.

Unaligned Religious Orders

There are approximately 120 orders which are affiliated to CoR but are not aligned to either a Diocesan or a Regional Religious Commission. There are a further 70+ orders which are not members of CoR. Work has commenced to engage with these orders to emphasize the importance and benefit of alignment.

Study Days for Bishops & Congregation Leaders

Two days have been held. One in March at Hinsley Hall and the second in May in London. Upwards of 200 attended the events and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Insurance & Pastoral Care for Victims

A group from the NCSC has been working with representatives of the insurers to agree insurance protocols which recognise the responsibility of the Church to provide pastoral care for survivors of abuse as well as the responsibility to protect its assets.



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Vetting & Barring—latest news

You may have noticed the “Stop Press” item in the last issue of Safeguarding Matters concerning some changes to the introduction of Vetting & Barring. This arose following a Home Office announcement to the House of Commons in March this year.

Here are some more details about the 3 key dates over which the implementation of the new Home Office Scheme will be staggered.

With effect from 12th October 2009:

- The existing barred lists (POCA; POVA; List 99) are replaced by the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Barred Lists. Therefore as of 12th October 2009, the Church will be able to check the barred status of those intending to work with vulnerable adults within the Church via the Enhanced CRB Disclosure. (Until this date, the Church has been restricted under the terms of the Department of Health to only accessing the current barred list of individuals who cannot work with vulnerable adults to those intending to work within regulated Care Homes run by Religious Orders).
- The Standard level Disclosure will no longer be available for those working with children and/or vulnerable adults. Therefore as of 12th October this year, all those eligible for a Disclosure within the Church will be checked at Enhanced level only.

With effect from July 2010:

- The new combined VBS and CRB application form comes into operation. This form enables us to submit applications for those requiring VBS registration only; a CRB Disclosure only OR those requiring both registration AND a Disclosure.
- Those who are new to posts working with children and/or vulnerable adults can apply for VBS registration.
- The Church will be able to check online the registration status of people intending to work with vulnerable groups who have already been registered via another role and organisation.

With effect from November 2010:

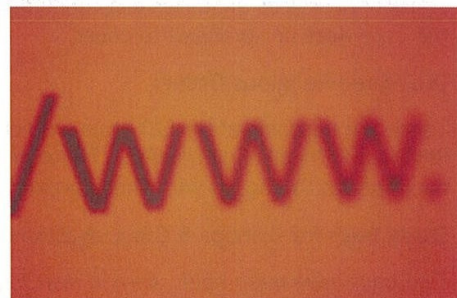
- The legal obligations come into force requiring individuals to be registered with ISA in order to work with vulnerable groups.
- The legal obligations also come into force requiring organisations to check the ISA registration status and submit applications as required, BEFORE a person new to post undertakes work with vulnerable groups.

CSAS Websites—what you need to know

CSAS has 2 websites which you may find useful. Each website is detailed below and provides a summary of the information you will find there.

www.csas.uk.net— you will find here details about CSAS; news and events that may be of interest to you and Frequently Asked Questions about Safeguarding and also CRB Disclosures. Resource details and some useful documents can also be located here.

www.csasprocedures.uk.net—you will find the full national Safeguarding policies of the Catholic Church of England & Wales on this site which are fully interactive. You can also check the Forms Library for the latest template versions.



The next issue of “Safeguarding Matters” is due out in August 2009