



## **The Vetting and Barring Scheme Registration has been halted.**

The Independent Safeguarding Authority's Vetting and Barring scheme (VBS) has been halted by the new Government. This is how Government ministers put it on 15 June:

Home Secretary Theresa May said:

*The safety of children and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance to the new government.*

*However it is also vital that we take a measured approach in these matters. We've listened to the criticisms and will respond with a scheme that has been fundamentally remodelled.*

*Vulnerable groups must be properly protected in a way that is proportionate and sensible. This redrawing of the VBS will ensure this happens.*

Children's Minister Tim Loughton said:

*Any vetting system should not be a substitute for proper vigilance by individuals and society. At the moment we think the pendulum has swung too far.*

*We shouldn't be driving a wedge between children and well-meaning adults including people coming forward to volunteer with young people. Such individuals should be welcomed, encouraged, and helped as much as possible, unless it can be shown that children would not be safe in their care.*

Care Services Minister Paul Burstow said:

*Protecting the most vulnerable people in society is a basic duty of any government. While we must be confident that the systems we have in place are up to the job, we must also be sure that they are proportionate.*

*We will look in detail at what should be done to ensure that the scheme meets both these tests.*

**We have no idea how long the review will take or what the findings might be.**

## **What does this mean for us in the Diocese of Leeds?**

1. All those working with working with vulnerable groups must have an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure.

- ❖ From 26 July 2010 any volunteer or employee who works with vulnerable groups must have an enhanced CRB Disclosure.
- ❖ From 26 July 2010 any organisation that employs anybody (including volunteers) to work with vulnerable groups must ensure that they have an enhanced CRB Disclosure.

2. I will send updated lists of 'cleared' volunteers to all parish reps and parish clergy during July. **Any volunteer or employee who is currently working with vulnerable groups but does not have an enhanced CRB Disclosure should stand down immediately.** They can apply for a Disclosure using one of the new-style forms from August onwards.

3. The deadline for receipt of the current style of CRB Disclosure application forms has now passed and I cannot accept any more. I will send new-style CRB Disclosure application forms to all parish reps during July, along with full instructions on how to complete them.

4. All meetings planned for parish reps are now cancelled. We are very grateful to all those reps (and clergy) who attended the earlier set of meetings, even though much of what you heard there has now been rendered irrelevant.

5. I will send out updates as soon as I have news of them. In the meantime both Suzanne and I send our thanks for your continuing efforts in this vital area of our church life.

*Stephen Hanslip*

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