

Safeguarding Newsletter - March 2010

There are two main sections to this newsletter

- A. The Vetting and Barring Scheme (England and Wales)
- B. An update, queries and questions about Creating Safer Space.

We apologise for the delays in issuing this latest regular newsletter. It seems more feasible to do this on a quarterly basis. *The next Newsletter update will be issued in June 2010.*

A. Vetting and Barring Scheme update

Guidance for Churches and Circuits in the Methodist Church (in England and Wales)

This VBS briefing concentrates:

- The arrangements that apply in England and Wales (they also apply in Northern Ireland)¹.
- The Vetting and Barring scheme is different in Scotland and *no dates* have been set. More information about the Scotland scheme can be found on the Scottish government web site <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation>
- The Appendices have been amended slightly – including the table of Roles these changes are in blue (*in electronic copies*)
- The final generic guidance is to be published within 2 weeks and the Faith Sector guidance will be published shortly afterwards.

What next?

From 12th October there were a few changes to Criminal Record Bureau checks and also the work of the Independent Safeguarding Authority commenced. The next big change is June to July 2010.

At the end of May the current CRB forms will cease being issued and those who need to renew their CRB disclosures in 2010 (those obtained up to 2005 inc.) must apply for renewals by end of May 2010.

All applications must cease on the old CRB forms by 20th June 2010. None will be accepted after this by CAS.

¹ It does not cover the duties of church schools, independent church schools or care homes (i.e. statutory provision). These bodies need to follow statutory guidance.

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For Districts, Circuits and Churches, Safeguarding Coordinators, Reps and all Ministers

Distributed to all via District Safeguarding groups and the District Chair/ Office.

From June 2010 new VBS forms and packs (for both CRB and ISA registration) will be available from Methodist Publishing. They will be available in small quantities. All the old unused CRB and CAS forms should be destroyed.

From July 14th CAS (and CRB) will be able to accept applications on the new forms for all new appointees or workers.

From this date we expect all churches and circuits to use the CRB and CAS forms supplied in the packs for volunteers. Churches will need to retain and make use of the new versions of the Registration Form A (both parts) and the new Confidential Declaration as they have done in the past.

The new indicative table of Roles is attached below in Appendix 1

Clarifications and alterations to the scheme

1. The frequency and intensity definitions/ thresholds for mandatory ISA registration have changed and reduced so that frequency is now once a week or more and intensity is 4 days or more in a 30 day period.
2. Notwithstanding this many of those who work with children and young people who currently have CRB checks and work less frequently than this should still be required to register and have CRB checks because of the nature of the work, but this is a matter for the Methodist Church and the new Safeguarding policies, rather than being legally required.
3. Note – the former CRB scheme was recommended good practice by government and not mandatory. It is however still a matter of Methodist policy requirements.

These changes have been reflected in the attached new Appendix 1.

Further information

For further information consult your District Safeguarding or Taking Care team, Churches' Agency for Safeguarding (the Registered Body) or the relevant government bodies.

Criminal Records Bureau: <http://www.crb.gov.uk/> 0870 90 90 811

ISA website: <http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/> phone 0300 123 1111

Both these websites maintain useful resources, including fact sheets and FAQs and link with each other as appropriate.

B. Creating Safer Space (CSS)

Creating Safer Space is a Connexional strategy for safeguarding training which is detailed in a Conference report adopted in 2007. There is a four year roll out phase designed to achieve full implementation by 2011, but this has been hampered in the outworking by the

reorganisation of the Connexional Team and the restructuring of Training Officer (TO) roles. The CSS resources group has had three meetings to date and is making steady progress. We are aware of a number of queries about resourcing CSS and the requirements to undertake training and these queries are answered below. A decision has also been taken not to delay the implementation date, that is, when all *new* workers, volunteers or appointees will be expected to attend such training as has been specified for their role, so this is still 2011.

Further tools and Modular material will be available within the next 3 months, by end of May, but some may be available sooner. A good deal of these resources will become available on the Methodist web site within that period.

A summary

Module A – the final pilot material is still being used and is available by email to anyone who should require it. It is being adapted and delivered by TOs and District Safeguarding Coordinators/Representatives and those they have trained. An outline will be made available soon for TOs and District Safeguarding reps/ coordinators who wish to develop their own module A, describing the essential components.

Modules B and C are being drafted and piloted soon; Module D likewise. We are hoping to be able to suggest different methods and combinations for delivery of these modules. In due course there is the intention to develop core/ foundation material for vulnerable adult awareness and supplementary modules on specialist topics. However, it should be noted that no decisions have been taken to roll any of these out as part of the essential CSS requirements.

Frequently asked Questions

(More FAQ answers were posted in November 2009 newsletter)

a) When will it become a mandatory requirement for appointees and employees?

Standing Orders are being drafted for Methodist Conference 2010 concerning the requirements under CSS, in order for them to take effect from new Methodist year 2010 to 2011. This will apply to those newly appointed or reappointed for roles in the control of the Methodist Church including Church Annual Meeting appointments or other appointments made or ratified at Church Councils, Circuit meetings or District synods etc.. It will also apply to all employees and ministers appointed to circuits that year.

b) What has happened about the roll out or a revised programme?

While there is some understandable concern about this, the programme for implementation should focus on delivery of Module A to all those with face to face responsibility for children and young people, including ministers and all those with Pastoral Responsibility. The other modules will follow by this summer and the DVD can also be expected by then too.

c) How is CSS to be paid for?

All levels of the Methodist Church are expected to pay towards CSS training. So local churches and circuits are expected to pay for their appointees to attend (expenses) and make significant contributions to the materials/ participant packs produced for each applicant or do the photocopying locally. Circuits should also provide venues on rotation, including presentation and sound equipment (where needed) and refreshments.

The Districts are intended to cover the costs of their staff/ appointees to attend the training and costs involved in supporting the District Safeguarding team's work including contributions to delivering training. This will also include the costs for the materials/ packs needed for each module for ministers (other expenses will be paid by the circuits). The Regional Training budgets are intended to cover the costs of TOs in facilitating or delivering training or in supporting them to deliver training trainer events, training safeguarding trainers and with the District Safeguarding teams' in co-delivery or co-facilitation of any of the above.

It is recognised that all resources are scarce, especially in the current financial climate and that the report was adopted by Conference in 2007 before this began. However, the costs for CSS are not excessive. Such training would be much more expensive in the public or private sectors. Safeguarding training provided 'on line' is much less thorough (it is not equivalent to a module), and begins at around £10 to £20 per short session.

A model agreement for local delivery is to be made available shortly to TOs and District Safeguarding Coordinators.

d) What should be in the packs for attendees and who pays for these?

For Module A, these should include a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, the quiz sheet and a feedback sheet. Other handouts should be made available as the TOs or local trainers see fit and handed out at their discretion. The costs should be covered by the churches/ the circuit where the training takes place, except for specialist/ targeted training within the District (e.g. ministers) when the District will need to ensure these costs are covered. The pack contents that are reproduced should not involve excessive photocopying and most of these documents will be posted on the Methodist web site CSS pages in the next two months. Please be aware that the 'Safeguarding children and young people' handbook is being rewritten this year, for publication in September 2010 and many circuits and churches would probably wish to invest in these for church workers and volunteers in due course.

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