

Oldham 3rd Sector Briefing Update:

Independent Safeguarding Authority Vetting and Barring Procedures.

1. What's it all about?

- With effect from July 2010 the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) are introducing new procedures for all people who work or volunteer with children and vulnerable adults.
- The ISA will assess every person who wants to work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults by working closely with the Criminal Records Bureau and assessing information previously found on the PoVA, PoCA and List 99. They will use this information to decide whether to give the individual concerned ISA registration or to put them on one of the ISA Barred lists. They will update their records constantly and will inform the individual's current employer if they are placed on the barred lists.

2. How will it work?

- The ISA gives specific guidance on the type of work for which individuals that need to be ISA checked.
- The majority of workers, volunteers and trustees will be undertaking 'regulated activities' and some will be undertaking 'controlled activities'.
- **What is a 'regulated activity'?**
 1. Any activity of a specified nature that involves contact with children or vulnerable adults frequently, intensively and/or overnight. (Such activities include teaching, training, care, supervision, advice, treatment and transportation.)
 2. Any activity allowing contact with children or vulnerable adults that is in a specified place frequently or intensively. (Such places include schools and care homes.)
 3. Fostering and childcare.
 4. Any activity that involves people in certain defined positions of responsibility. (Such positions include school governor, director of social services and trustee of certain charities.)
 5. 'Regulated activity' is when the activity is frequent (once a month or more) or 'intensive' (takes place on three or more days in a 30-day period).

What is a 'controlled activity'?

1. Frequent or intensive support work in general health settings, the NHS and further education. (Such work includes cleaners, caretakers, shop workers, catering staff, car park attendants and receptionists.)
2. Individuals working for specified organisations (e.g. a local authority) who have frequent access to sensitive records about children and vulnerable adults.
3. Support work in adult social care settings. (Such jobs include day centre cleaners and those with access to social care records.) 'Controlled activity' is when this type of activity is 'frequent' (once a month or more) or 'intensive' (takes place on three or more days in a 30-day period).

3. How does this impact on the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector in Oldham?

- Every one working or volunteering with children and young people either doing either regulated activity or controlled activity must register with ISA.
- This is not instead of a CRB, this is in addition to a CRB.
- Unlike CRB, workers and volunteers only need to register with ISA once.
- When an individual registers they are given a unique reference number that they can give to organisations that they are working or volunteering with who can then check, via the ISA website, that they are registered.

4. Are there any financial implications?

- The ISA stress that it is the individual's responsibility to become ISA registered so organisations and groups will need to decide if they are paying for their staff or if there is an expectation that the individuals are responsible.
- The cost to register as a volunteer is free – although most organisations who provide CRB services charge a handling fee of £10-£20 per volunteer.
- The cost to register as a paid employee is £64.00, which includes the CRB check and ISA registration. The current cost for an enhanced CRB check is £36.00. The ISA check will only need to be completed once.
- At present there is no additional funding from the ISA to assist with the additional cost.

5. Will Workers and volunteers still need a CRB check?

- In short YES! The ISA check will only show if a person is ISA registered, which means the ISA has found no known reason why the applicant should not work with children or vulnerable adults. It does not check for malpractice or all criminal convictions, and therefore registration with the ISA does not guarantee that a person has no criminal history.
- The ISA also does not change any of the legal requirements from the DCSF to make CRB checks therefore all workers and volunteers will still be required to have an enhanced CRB when they commence working and volunteering and then every 3 years after this.

6. Further Guidance

- Additional guidance about the scheme can be found at www.isa-gov.org.
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board are organising information events to take place early in 2010. Look out on <http://www.oldham.gov.uk/lscb-home.htm> for more information.
- If you are concerned or would like more information please contact The Hub on thehub@positivestepsoldham.org.uk