

# Safeguarding Update

The newsletter of the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding



The Churches' Agency  
for Safeguarding



## In this issue:

- . The launch of the Independent Safeguarding Authority
- . Preparing for the Vetting and Barring Scheme
- . Introduction to Stephen Boyo, CAS Chief Executive

## Safeguarding– A Changing Landscape

Welcome to the first edition of CAS News, the new quarterly newsletter of the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding. We have been thinking of producing something along the line of a newsletter for quite a while and it appears pertinent to do so now, with the safeguarding landscape fast changing as a result of the introduction of a Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) and new registration requirements by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

We particularly feel the need to keep you regularly informed of ongoing developments with the scheme, because of the responsibility it will place on churches and their workers, and also because of enquiries we continue to receive about

the scheme's impact on existing CRB requirements.

Thus far, there has been genuine and understandable concern expressed from all quarters about the scheme, its rationale and interplay with existing systems such as CRB checks and the new responsibilities placed on employers, employees and volunteers.

CAS has followed the development of the VBS closely from day one, and has been able to contribute constructively to its development. We have done so individually and collectively through our membership of the Faith CRB Faith Sector Consultative Group and Christian Forum for Safeguarding which we convene.

We believe that we have been able to represent the views and concerns of our members effectively, and that these have been taken on board by policy makers. Please refer to an excerpt of our interview published in the September 2009 edition of the CRB's Disclosure News, which we have reproduced here. It gives an overview of our preparation for VBS.

By the time this goes to print, CAS would also have attended a residential conference with the Home Office's Vetting and Safeguarding Unit, to discuss the VBS and ongoing arrangements for its roll out over the coming years. This will provide an opportunity to feed into the process at a crucial stage of the scheme's roll-out.

**Stephen Boyo, email:**  
[boyos@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:boyos@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### Key VBS developments for you to note are as follows:

**From 12 October 2009** – it is now an offence for ISA-barred individuals to work or apply for work with children or vulnerable adults in a wide range of posts and employers face a range of sanctions if they knowingly employ a barred person across a wider range of work.

**There will now only be 2 new ISA-barred lists** – one for children and the other for vulnerable adults. POCA, POVA and List 99 have now been replaced by these two lists

**From 12 October 2009 Employers (including churches and Christian organisations)** - must refer information about individuals working with children or vulnerable adults to ISA if they consider them to have caused harm or pose a risk of harm to either group

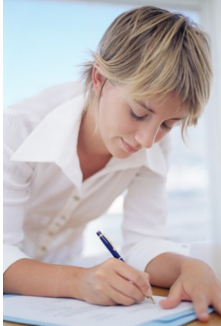
Key dates for you to note regarding ISA registration are as follows:

**July 2010** - new entrants to work with vulnerable groups **can** register with the ISA;

**November 2010** - new entrants **must** register with the ISA before starting work;

**April 2011** - existing workers can **start** to ISA-register. CRB/ISA will publish, in good time, their recommendations as to dates by when they should register.

CAS will keep you posted of any new developments through our quarterly newsletter but also feel free to contact us on 0207 467 5216 or visit our website [www.churchsafe.org.uk](http://www.churchsafe.org.uk) if you have any queries. You may also visit the ISA website [www.ISA-gov.org](http://www.ISA-gov.org) for detailed information and updates.



## CRB checks are still continuing!

Many churches and Christian based organisations have asked us about the continuing need for CRB checks in the light of VBS. Our standard reply is that CRB checks are still required for existing and potential employees and volunteers who are or will be working with children and vulnerable adults.

The only change to CRB is that **Standard** CRB checks are no longer required of individuals working with children and/or vulnerable adults or intending to do so from October 12 2009. They will now need to get **Enhanced** CRB checks instead.

The Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 also introduces a legal requirement for individuals intending to work with children or vulnerable adults to register with the ISA from July 2010. Existing employees and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults in regulated activities will be required to register from April 2011. Both groups will also be required to have enhanced CRB checks

as part of their ISA registration process.

Note that there is no need to panic to get all your existing staff and volunteers ISA registered or CRB checked now as they will only be required to register from April 2011, however, if any individual member of staff or volunteer is due for a **renewed** CRB check, it can be done at any time before April 2011. In addition, if you are taking on new staff members or volunteers to work with children or vulnerable adults, they will still need to have enhanced CRB checks before July 2010 when the requirement for ISA registration comes into effect.

Please contact CAS for a CRB application form or if you are a non-member please contact us on 0207 467 5216 for membership joining information.

**Stephen Boyo,**  
[boyos@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:boyos@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### Changes to the Disclosure process

- **Those working with children or vulnerable adults must apply for an Enhanced CRB check.**
- **Standard Disclosures are still available but will only show if the applicant has any cautions, convictions etc. A Standard Disclosure will no longer check against the barred lists. For a paid worker the cost of a Standard Disclosure is now £26.**
- **We can now request checks against the ISA Vulnerable Adults Barred list for anybody working with vulnerable adults. (Previously only those providing statutory care, such as in a residential care home, were eligible for the POVA check.)**

## CAS in Disclosure News

Disclosure news is the monthly newsletter published by the Criminal Records Bureau. The September issue featured an interview with CAS Team Administrator, Katherine Shaw, about CAS's preparations for the Vetting and Barring scheme. Here is an extract from the article...

**CRB:** With the launch approaching, we decided to catch up with The Churches' Agency for Safeguarding (CAS) to see how it is preparing for the launch.

CAS is an ecumenical, not-for-profit Umbrella Body initially set up by 10 denominations in 2002. It now also works with over 50 Informal Members, mostly Christian charities and Independent Churches, and processes around 20,000 Disclosure applications per year.

**Katherine:** Of the main changes on 12 October, I think that the one which affects us as a Registered Body most is that we will no longer be able to put through Standard Disclosures for those working with children or vulnerable adults. And for the churches that we work with, the main change will be their duty to refer information about individuals who may pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults to the ISA.

**CRB:** You must refer any information about individuals who may pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults to the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Information on your duty to refer and the criminal penalties in relation to employment with vulnerable groups can be found in section 47 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and information on how to refer can be found on the ISA website.

**Katherine:** I think that the duty to refer should lead to greater sharing of information and this in turn should help to identify people who are unsuitable for working with vulnerable groups, even though they may have no criminal history.

**CRB:** How are CAS preparing for the next phase of VBS implementation?

**Katherine:** The Christian Forum for Safeguarding (of which CAS is a member) is organising a series of road shows early next year to give training to trainers, so that information about VBS can be cascaded down to each church. Once ISA registration starts it will be very important that churches are clear on the five-year phase-in programme and CAS will need to ensure that we only submit applications at the appropriate time, so that the CRB and ISA are not overloaded. We are anticipating an increase in demand once ISA registration starts and are working towards using e-Bulk so that we can process applications more quickly and efficiently.

## Introduction to Stephen Boyo

Stephen Boyo joined CAS as Chief Executive in September 2009. He was formerly Director of Communications and Services and Director of Corporate Affairs at the Community Development Foundation (CDF) an executive agency of the Department for Communities and Local Government, from 2003-2009. Prior to his last post, Stephen was Age Concern England's national policy adviser on housing and community development. Stephen has a varied background in public policy, law, marketing and management. Stephen is currently working on strengthening CAS' internal work processes and building relationships with various stakeholders in addition to ensuring that CAS is fully prepared for the implementation of the VBS scheme in 2010. Stephen has also started work on redeveloping the CAS website.

