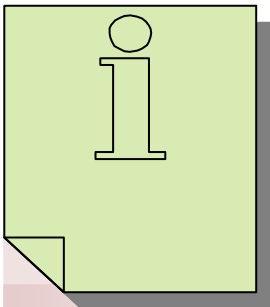


CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Welcome to the 14th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 14th 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)



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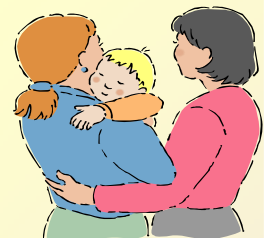
“Drawing the Line”

Revisions to ISA definitions of “frequent” & “intensive”

Background to the “Drawing a Line” report

In September 2009 Ed Balls (Secretary of State) asked Sir Roger Singleton (Chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority) to revisit some aspects of the ISA scheme in light of public comments made about the workability of vetting and barring. The issues were primarily around the definitions of “frequent” and “intensive” although there had also been concerns around how the scheme would apply in circumstances such as transporting children to events. Sir Roger Singleton sought the views from a number of organisations including CSAS before reporting in December 2009.

Outcomes from the Report



Private arrangements:

“Drawing the Line” confirms that where parents make arrangements with other parents or family members this is a private matter and therefore not subject to ISA requirements. Where parents entrust their children (or people entrust family members deemed to be vulnerable) to an organisation such as a school; group or club and therefore relinquish their personal choice over which adult/s provides care then ISA registration is necessary according to the definitions of regulated activity. To illustrate this if a person has an arrangement for their sister to look after their child each day for an hour after school, this is a private arrangement and therefore the family member is not subject to ISA registration requirements. If however that person had to make alternative arrangements and sought the services of a local “after-school” club then the club would be required to adhere to ISA requirements and register those adults working in the club per the regulated activity definitions as the parent is not in a position to choose which specific individuals care for their child.

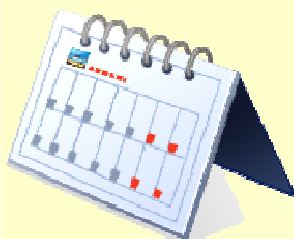
Change to definition of “frequent”:

“Frequent” is now defined as ONCE A WEEK OR MORE compared to the original definition of once a month or more.

Sir Roger Singleton is quick to point out that this “relaxing” of the registration requirements could lead to opportunities for a person to avoid registration whilst still having sufficient frequent access to build up a relationship. It is therefore the stance of ISA that this definition is used as the MINIMUM statutory requirement and a level of discretion is awarded to the organisation/employer.

Change to definition of “intensive”:

“Intensive” is now defined as 4 OR MORE DAYS A MONTH (consecutively or otherwise) compared to 3 days or more in any 30 day period.



Common ISA questions

Why are CRB checks and the new ISA scheme necessary? Surely this indicates that anyone wanting to work with children or vulnerable adults is under suspicion?

Ed Balls, Secretary of State, addressed this anxiety in a letter made public from him to the Chair of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee. In that letter he states

“Asking those who work with children to join this new scheme is categorically not a presumption of guilt but is, I believe, a sensible and proportionate contribution to keeping children safe. When you go on a car journey there is no presumption that you will have an accident and, thankfully, most people never have a car accident at any time during their lives. But—rightly—we still say that you must wear a seat belt to guard against a risk that may be low odds but potentially devastating if it should occur. It is exactly the same here.”

Will the applicant have to pay the £64 ISA registration fee themselves?

Firstly the charge for ISA registration is ONLY applicable to those who are working in a paid capacity. For those who are volunteers, and meet the definition of a volunteer, there is NO charge to register with the Scheme.

Technically the charge is attributable to the applicant (which is not dissimilar to the current CRB Disclosure situation) however in reality the majority of fees are absorbed or paid for by the organisation recruiting the individual.

Should I be registering people for ISA now?

No. The Scheme doesn't launch until July so no-one can apply to register yet. When the Scheme does launch, the first group for registration are those who are NEW to post. See the question and answer below for more information.

Who will have to be registered from July this year?

Only “new starters” will need to be registered before they undertake work with children or vulnerable adults. This means that anyone ALREADY working (paid or voluntary) for an organisation with vulnerable groups will NOT require registration immediately upon the Scheme launching. Instead those already working in the Church will be registered over a phased 5-year period. This phasing is expected to be structured around the date of the CRB Disclosure. Those who have yet to be CRB checked will be the primary group for registration after “new starters” and subsequent to that will be phasing based on the earliest date of CRB Disclosure.



How will I know what I am supposed to do when it comes to ISA?

Don't worry. CSAS will continue to release information and advice and the Dioceses and Religious will be fully supported to keep you aware of what you need to know; what to do and how to do it.

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