



Engaging Communities - Working Together

# GOOD NEIGHBOURS AND VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEMES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

Issue 10

## PROTECTING YOUR PASSENGERS

## Key points

The Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) was introduced by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 following recommendations in the Bichard Inquiry which was held after the murders of children Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in Soham in 2002.

The inquiry recommended a new scheme under which everyone working with children or vulnerable adults should be checked and registered. This came into effect in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on 12 October 2009. Scotland has a similar scheme.

The VBS is a partnership between the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), the department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland and the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The ISA is responsible for running two lists of people barred from working with children and vulnerable adults. These lists replace three existing lists: List 99, the Protection of Children Act list (POCA) and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list (POVA).

The ISA assesses the risk of harm that someone would pose if they were to work with children or vulnerable adults, while the CRB continues to provide full criminal records checks.

- Employees and volunteers will be subject to the same ISA and CRB checks
  - By 2015 anyone wanting to work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults in a 'regulated activity' must register with the ISA.
  - Being ISA-registered demonstrates that no information is held about a person that suggests they pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults.
  - Being ISA-registered does NOT mean someone is safe' or 'cleared to work'.
  - All ISA-registered people will be continually monitored and their registration status reassessed against any new information which may come to light.
  - ISA registration is not the same as a CRB check. An enhanced CRB check will continue to provide a full criminal history, which aside from the ISA registration, could make someone unsuitable for employment or volunteering.
- Where CRB checks are mandatory they will continue to be so.  
ISA registration is not intended to replace CRB checks.

### **Definition of 'regulated activity'**

The Community Transport's view is that driving or being a passenger assistant transporting vulnerable people on a regular basis, should be classed as a regulated activity. Under the rules, regulated activity involves contact with children or vulnerable adults and is:

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Of a specified nature</b><br>Eg.. teaching, training, care, supervision, advice, treatment, or transport  | & | Occurs frequently, intensively and/or overnight' ie:<br><br>Once a week or more (frequent criteria) |
| Or   |   | 4 days in one month or more (intensive criteria)  |
| <b>In a specified place</b><br>Eg schools, children's homes, juvenile detention facilities, adult care homes |   | Overnight: between 2—6 am<br><br>No distinction between paid and voluntary work                     |

### Timescale

- The regulations are introduced as follows.
- From October 2009:
- Enhanced CRB checks will include a check of the ISA lists in the same way that current enhanced CRB checks List 99 and the POCA and POVA lists.
- It is a criminal offence for anyone who is barred to seek employment or volunteering opportunities with children or vulnerable adults.
- It is a criminal offence for anyone knowingly to allow a barred person to undertake employment or volunteering opportunities with children or vulnerable adults.
- Employers and statutory bodies have a duty to report any appropriate information to the ISA. If an employer dismisses or ceases to use a person in a regulated activity because they think they harmed or pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults, then they must inform the ISA.

From July 2010:

- All new entrants to roles working with children or vulnerable adults (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) will be able to register with the ISA and be checked. The cost of ISA registration will be £64 (£58 in Northern Ireland) for paid employees and free for volunteers. This includes a concurrent enhanced CRB check. The ISA fee is a one-off charge for life. If a person registering with the ISA as a volunteer subsequently takes up paid employment,

the ISA registration fee will then become due. Subsequent CRB checks for employees will attract the standard fee, which is currently £36.

- A new CRB disclosure application form will be introduced which will include ISA registration with the CRB check.

From November 2010:

- It will be mandatory for new entrants and job movers to be registered with the ISA.
- Employers must check the ISA registration for all new employees and volunteers. This can be done at the same time as a CRB check.

People already employed or volunteering in a regulated activity on 26 July 2010 will have until 2015 to become ISA-registered. If their employer undertakes regular CRB checks, the ISA registration should be applied for as part of the new CRB check. For existing employees the new regulations attract an additional one-off cost of £28 for ISA registration.

### Registering with the ISA

People can become ISA-registered through CRB Registered Bodies or Umbrella Bodies (Surrey Community Action is an Umbrella Body).

- Employers will be able to check someone's ISA registration, with their consent, online for free. Employers will be legally required to complete this check. Remember ISA registration does not provide the same criminal history as a CRB check but an enhanced CRB check contains an ISA check.
- If a person is not registered it does not mean that they have been barred from working with children or vulnerable adults; they may never have been registered with the ISA.
- Employers will be able to 'register an interest' in an employee or volunteer with the ISA for free, so if the ISA status subsequently changes, the employer will be notified.
- No-one working in a 'regulated activity' will be able to refuse to be ISA-registered.
- People from overseas who come to work in the UK will also have to be ISA-registered, irrespective of their country of origin. Even if no information can be obtained from their country of origin they will be subject to continuous monitoring in the UK.

What does this mean for your schemes? Some of the schemes I have spoken with are saying that as it is not possible to say how many jobs any one volunteer would do in any given month - it will be easier to have everyone ISA registered when their next CRB check is done.

There is a free training course being held at Surrey Community Action on Wednesday 26 May 2010 at 2pm – 3.30pm. If you would like to go please contact Ann Meager on 01483 459292 ext 224 to book a place.

## **A note from Milford and Witley Village Care**

Milford and Witley Village Care is a good neighbour scheme that provides mainly transport services and has been operating for over 15 years. Recently, however, we have been losing volunteers and organisers (especially those who have been with us for many years) far faster than we were able to recruit replacements. So much so in fact, the survival of the organisation was at risk.

With Vicki Turtons help we therefore planned a recruitment drive and held two coffee mornings in October. These were extensively advertised by local churches, surgeries and businesses. As a result a total of 20 new volunteers were recruited, some of whom are interested in becoming committee members. In this way the scheme has been given a new lease of life.

We would like to thank Vicki for her help and also Surrey Community Foundation who's Grassroots Grants funding scheme financed our leaflet printing costs and other expenditure relating to the campaign.

Sent to me by their new chairman - Barbara Hewett.

What a wonderful story from Milford and Witley Village Care. Since they did their coffee morning St Johns Care have also held one and they got 7 new volunteers. These coffee mornings certainly seem to work. If you would like more information about how to do one for your scheme, please contact me.

## **Frimley Park Hospital**

In December I received an e mail from Paul Grant the Security Services Coordinator at Frimley Park Hospital. He sent me photographs of a car parked on double yellow lines. It was on a bend in a very narrow area which is used by buses and all deliveries. It was displaying a yellow driver on duty disc.

The car was parked in this position for a total of 2 and a half hours.



This second photograph was taken in January 2010. The car was parked on the main emergency route in front of the hospital and the driver left their car on a double yellow line.



This is totally inappropriate. If your drivers use Frimley Park Hospital would you please remind them about the parking arrangements at the hospital. We have a good relationship with FPH and the parking attendants are very helpful. Please help us to keep everyone happy.

## New Schemes

### SECAM

On 2 November 2009 a new scheme launched for Central Woking and Maybury. It is called SECAM (South East Central and Maybury) their telephone number is 07500 376 394. It has been a slow start but hopefully will steadily build up.



### Merstham Neighbours

Merstham Neighbours have a launch date planned for April. This is a photograph of their chairman, Rob Siddall and a committee member, at a committee meeting which they held in a tree house just before Christmas.



### Boxhill Care

Boxhill Care is a new scheme forming on Boxhill. They are having a coffee morning in April to recruit more volunteers.

### Ash and/or Ash Vale

Work is still on going in Ash and Ash Vale to get either one scheme for both villages or a schemes in each village.

## HORSELL 10th ANNIVERSARY

Horsell Care launched on 27 September 1999 and held their 10th Anniversary Tea Party on 7 October 2009. The party was attended by Mr Humphrey Malins MP, Chairman Richard Sanderson and Mayor of Woking Cllr Tina Liddington. Since they started they have completed 8,400 requests. Congratulations to Horsell Care.



## REMEMBER

Please remember to remind all drivers that, if they change their insurance company, they must send in a new form to make sure they are still covered for voluntary driving.

## PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

It is a year since CaSE Insurance began offering public liability insurance to schemes. About 20 schemes have taken up this insurance and most, if not all, have saved money on their premium. If you go to their web site [www.caseinsurance.co.uk/vds](http://www.caseinsurance.co.uk/vds) you will be able to get a quote. Any queries please let me know.

### My Contact Details -

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