

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS IN THE DIOCESE OF HEREFORD

ADVICE TO TOWER CAPTAINS AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS REGARDING YOUNG BELLRINGERS.

The Diocese adopts and upholds the advice contained in Guidance Note 3 of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers dated 3rd September 2009 and the associated "Protecting Young Ringers".

In line with the above the Diocese of Hereford requires therefore that the following should have Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks where teaching of young people under the age of 18 years takes place or where any adult who may be considered to be vulnerable to any sort of abuse may be a member of the team

- All Tower Captains
- A minimum of one other regular ringer (this may or may not be the Deputy)
- Anyone who is involved in teaching young or vulnerable ringers
- Anyone who transports young ringers on any occasion (who is not that child's parent/step-parent/grandparent or someone with whom the parent has made a specific arrangement).

Hereford Diocese regards the CRB checking of the above as the minimum requirement regardless of the frequency of the teaching offered to young people.

It is the joint responsibility of the PCC and the Tower Captain to ensure that CRB checks are done where necessary and all such checks should be undertaken via the Diocese of Hereford and cannot at present be transferred from any other paid or voluntary employment. Information on how to obtain a CRB check can be found on the Diocesan Website under Churchwork - Safeguarding – CRB checks.

Barbara Gratton
Bishop's Adviser on Safeguarding of Children

FURTHER INFORMATION

CRB checks for all volunteers are free. A previous offence does not necessarily bar a person from taking part in a regulated activity; it depends on the nature and circumstances of that offence. However certain offences against children or of a violent nature will lead to an individual being barred from working, in either a paid or voluntary capacity with young people or vulnerable adults.

Since October 2009 it has been an offence to knowingly employ (paid or voluntary) an offender who is barred from working with children, young people or vulnerable adults. It is also worth noting that in the event of an incident of abuse which leads to legal action on the part of the victim or their parents, Ecclesiastical Insurance, with whom most churches are insured are clear that they will not cover legal fees if the proper procedures to ensure Safeguarding have not been taken.

The timetable for the implementation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority regulations is delayed but in due course will lead to “portability” of CRB checks (i.e. the facility for employers to check with the ISA that an applicant is not barred).

If you require any further advice in relation to Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Diocese of Hereford please contact Barbara Gratton, Bishop’s Adviser on Safeguarding of Children on 01989 730281 or by e-mail b.gratton@hereford.anglican.org