

Briefing Paper : The Independent Safeguarding Authority

From October 2009 there will be a single **Independent Safeguarding Authority** (ISA) to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. Employers from the VCS will have to check potential employees, when recruiting staff, if they will be working with children or vulnerable adults. You will be able to check an individual's ISA registration status online or as part of an enhanced CRB check.

For more information visit <http://www.isa.gov.org/>

There will be a fee to register with the Authority for employees and those who are self employed. The cost to the individual to apply to register with the ISA will be a one-off, lifetime fee of £64. Volunteers will also have to register but there will be no fee for this. Applicants will be assessed using data from the existing Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Only people judged not to be a risk to vulnerable adults or children can be ISA registered.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority will also gather information from the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list (POVA), Protection of Children's Act (POCA) list and List 99 (list of people considered unsuitable for work with children)

Employers will have to check someone's ISA status when they are recruiting and only an ISA registered person can undertake **regulated activity**. They will divide work into two categories: controlled and regulated. Regulated activity involves 'contact with children or vulnerable adults frequently, intensively and/or overnight' (Factsheet ISA), contact in a specified place frequently or intensively (including schools and care homes), fostering and child care etc. **Controlled activity** is when individuals provide frequent or intensive support work in general health settings (cleaners, caretakers, receptionists etc)

An employer can permit a barred individual to work in a controlled activity **only if sufficient safeguards are put in place.**

Domestic employers do not have to check an individual they wish to employ (such as a carer through an Individual Budget) but they 'can if they wish to' This has been raised as a matter of concern with the Safeguarding Adults Board, by Age Concern Manchester. We will keep you informed of developments.