



PCC members and Safeguarding Checks fact sheet

Safeguarding (DBS) checks for volunteers, employees and Trustees can be complex. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with the safeguarding team at Church House.

This fact sheet should be read in conjunction with

- The Church Representation Rules 2017
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/church-representation-rules/church-representation-rules-online>
- The national church Safer Recruitment policy guidance (where you will also find further details about safer recruiting, eligibility for DBS checks and other guidance)
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/templates-resources>

- ✓ Where a PCC has specifically `sponsored` activities (eg Sunday School, youth clubs, lunches for elderly people etc) all PCC members are eligible for an Enhanced DBS check and the PCC should decide whether they will DBS check all PCC members or a representative number of PCC members which should include Churchwardens.
- ✓ People may not stand for PCC or Churchwarden elections if they are on a barred list, have been convicted or cautioned of an offence under Schedule 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933; or are otherwise disqualified from being a Charity trustee under the Charities Act.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/731084/010818_Disqualification_Reasons_Table_v2.pdf
- ✓ Where a member of the PCC has a DBS that contains information this will be appropriately risk assessed by the diocesan Safeguarding Adviser in line with usual diocesan safeguarding policies practices.
- ✓ Additionally every Parish Safeguarding Officer whether a member of the PCC or working with it, should be DBS checked to at Enhanced level.
- ✓ All church volunteers and staff in specific or `regulated` activity must be checked to the appropriate DBS level as set out in the safer recruitment guidance (this of course may also include members of the PCC who are involved personally in a particular role).
- ✓ All PCCs **must** follow national church Safer Recruitment guidance for those volunteers and employees who have a role with children or vulnerable adults. The diocese has a range of safer recruitment advice and guidance aligned with this and also offers core training and is also available for ongoing advice and

support on this and all safeguarding matters.

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/safeguarding/guidance-and-policies/>

- The church is always looking for ways to improve our safeguarding policies and practices – so its important to check that you have the most up to date guidance.
- Safer Recruitment is key to good appointments for volunteers and employees as DBS checking is just a small part of that overall process (check out our website fact sheet for Safer Recruitment and the national policy and practice guidance). Later in 2017 we will be running safer recruitment training events for clergy and Nominated People.
- Please do remember that Confidential Declaration forms can only be used where DBS checks are being undertaken.
- The list of roles eligible for DBS checks is available through our website also – and we will keep this updated for you as changes come through (eg Worship Leaders may not necessarily be eligible for a DBS check – whereas Open The Book volunteers are automatically eligible).

For more information please get in touch or visit:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/templates-resources>

<http://gloucester.anglican.org/safeguarding>

<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/>

Other links you may find helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/charities-how-to-protect-vulnerable-groups-including-children>
<http://www.ecclesiastical.com/ChurchMatters/Images/people-on-church-premises.pdf>

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

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