

# ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK SAFEGUARDING TEAM NEWSLETTER



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## All about rechecks!

Thank you for all the hard work that parishes are putting in to ensure that all volunteers have a DBS as lockdown ends. As activities resume, we must ensure that all returning and new volunteers who require a DBS, have a current check that has been issued within the last 3 years or are signed up to the update service.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer holidays!



Paul Czastka, PSR Liz Tadd, Kaella Weekes and Fr Jim McGillicuddy at Sutton



Many Parishes are utilising the on-line service, which reduces some of the paperwork required for the DBS process

The safeguarding office staff have visited Sutton and Canterbury parishes to help with the completion of parish rechecks. Volunteers in attendance were helped with the completion of their DBS forms and had their identity documents verified. The recheck day at Sutton was successful in achieving the completion of the majority of Sutton's volunteer DBS' and Canterbury Parish have completed the majority of their DBS checks.

We have had a lot of positive feedback from PSRs across the diocese who have held DBS recheck days. Dedicating specific days to completing the forms has proven to be an efficient method for parishes with a large number of DBS' to complete. Thank you to these and all other Parishes that are working hard to complete the re-checks.

Please contact the safeguarding office for advice or if you would like to arrange for members of the office team to visit your parish to help.



## Volunteer DBS applications are free of charge

This is a reminder that a DBS for volunteers is free of charge and no cost to the parish.

Subscription to the DBS update service is also free of charge for volunteers. It is the responsibility of the applicant to register to the service upon receipt of their DBS certificate.

## Using the Update Service

What is required for the safeguarding office to use a certificate registered to the update service?

\*provided the certificate registered is appropriate for the role being undertaken

If the Update Service check is with certificate from same parish, we require:

- Completion of DBS 4

If Update Service check is with certificate from a different parish in Southwark diocese, we require:

- Completion of DBS 4
- Completion of DBS 3a with PSR

If Update service check is with certificate from another diocese, we require:

- Completion of DBS 4
- Completion of DBS 3a with PSR
- Safeguarding office must see  
The original disclosure certificate

If Update Service check is with certificate from another organisation, we require:

- Completion of DBS 4
- Completion of DBS 3a with PSR
- Safeguarding office must see  
The original disclosure certificate

**DBS 4 – Safeguarding  
Self-Declaration Form**

**DBS 3a – Confirmation of  
Identity Form**

## Training

In the autumn, the safeguarding team will be delivering safeguarding training to Clergy. These will be the first face-to-face training sessions delivered since the start of the pandemic. Information will be sent out to all members of the Clergy.

The safeguarding team are working on a comprehensive training package to provide to all PSRs or volunteers who are happy to deliver training to the volunteers in their parishes.

Reminder – The annual parish safeguarding gathering day will be going ahead on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 and we are looking forward to finally meeting you all.

**IMPORTANT** – National trends and research have indicated that the reporting of safeguarding concerns will increase as lockdowns end as individuals have not had access to their usual safe places during the lockdown.

As the restrictions have gradually been lifted, there has been an increase in the overall number of concerns being reported in comparison to previous years across the country and it is expected to increase further as all restrictions are removed this month.

Therefore, please remain vigilant and ensure that any concerns that you have, or concerns that are reported to you continue to be reported to the safeguarding office. Please make contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

[Refuge](#) – National Domestic Abuse Helpline | 0808 2000 247

[The Trussell Trust](#) – Help and support finding a local food bank | 0808 208 2138

[Mencap](#) – Support and advice for people living with a learning disability | 0808 808 111

[Hourglass](#) – National charity working to protect and prevent the abuse of vulnerable older adults | 080 8808 8141

[Mind](#) – information and signposting service for mental health problems | 0300 123 3393

Mental Health Helplines – NHS compiled list of helplines and support groups that can offer expert advice [Click HERE](#)

Visit StreetLink London to report any concerns about homeless persons in London. [Click HERE](#)

Use your borough.gov websites to identify local services in your area.

Helpline service posters are available on the [PSR Resource Centre](#).