

Forthcoming changes to Police-checking procedures, for people employed or volunteering with Children or Vulnerable Adults.

The existing Jersey Police check system has provided an effective screening service for the Island to date; however, since Monday 12th October 2009 all vetting information has been held by the new UK Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Legislative changes are currently being implemented in order to enable Jersey to maintain access to this information via the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), which is the only access route to the Independent Safeguarding Authority under the new UK procedures.

When the new local system is established, job applicants will be able to apply for CRB checks in order to provide the necessary information to employers when applying for specific positions with access to vulnerable children or adults; the CRB disclosures will state whether the applicant is barred from working with these vulnerable groups. The aim is to have the facility for making CRB checks available as soon as is practicable in 2010, with the establishment of a Jersey Vetting Bureau. Information about the new Bureau procedures will be available nearer the launch date.

The introduction of CRB checks would be the first stage in changing the route for providing safeguarding checks in the Island. Potentially the second stage, which would allow an Island-wide vetting and barring scheme similar to that in the UK, will be considered in 2011 and come to the States for debate in due course.

If the wider vetting and barring scheme is introduced, applicants would be able to make a one-time registration with the ISA, and employers of people working with vulnerable groups would be able to check on-line to confirm that applicants were suitable for employment in these roles. Employers would be given responsibility for referring information or concerns to the ISA and individual records would be updated so that checks would provide up-to-date information for registered individuals.

Making sure that children and vulnerable groups are properly safeguarded is an important priority for the States of Jersey. The proposed changes to the procedures for background checks for those working, or volunteering, with vulnerable people are designed to ensure that existing high standards are maintained.

The attached FAQ document may help to answer some of your questions around the forthcoming changes. If you have further questions, please contact Heidi Sydor at h.sydor@gov.je

Other useful links:

Criminal Records Bureau website: www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk

Independent Safeguarding Authority website: www.isa-gov.org.uk