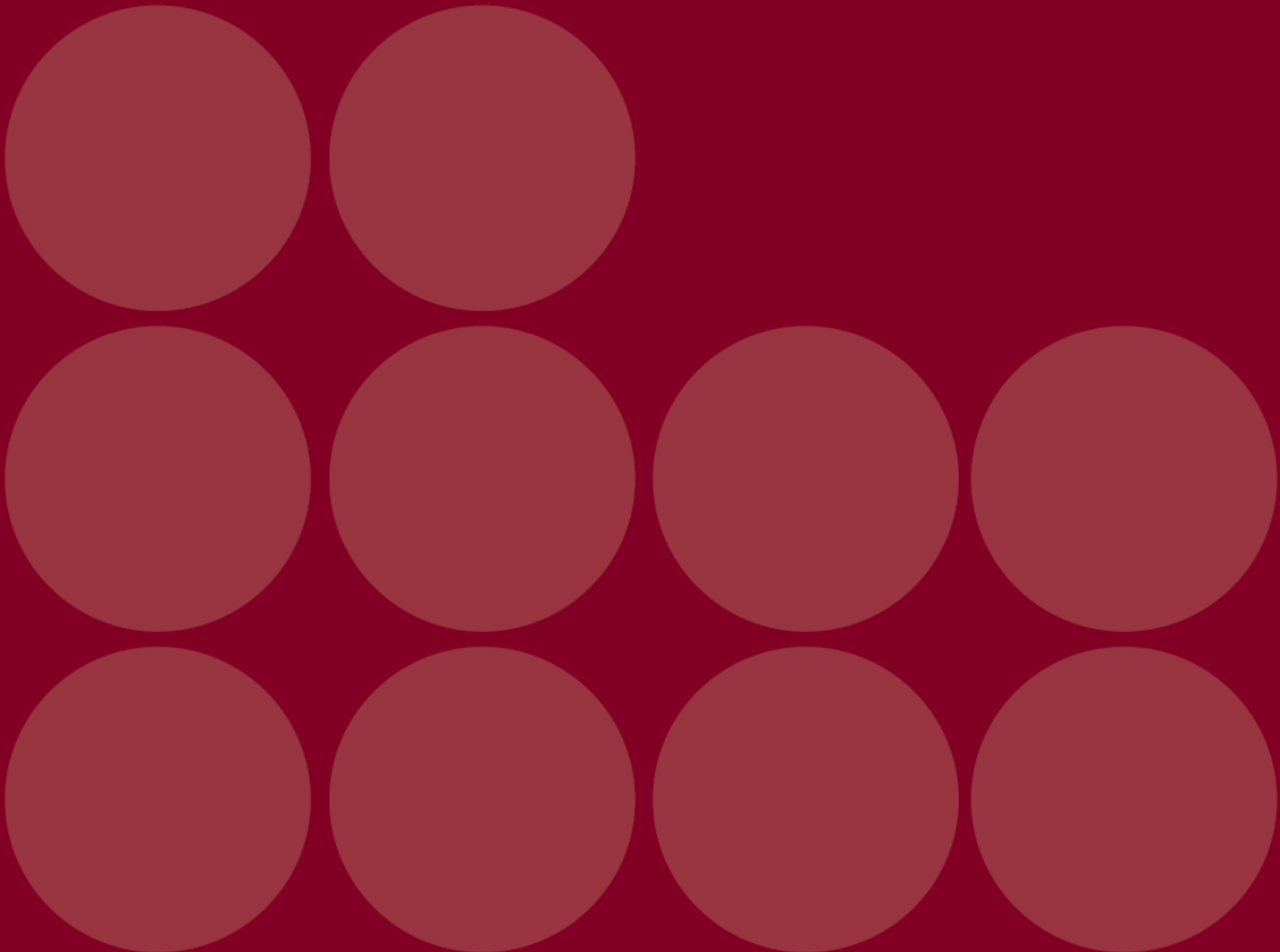




Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Scheme Update

The electronic newsletter for ISA Stakeholders

June 2008



Welcome

Following our recent announcement of the start date (12 October 2009) and the individual application fee (£64) for the new ISA Scheme, we are pleased to be able to provide you with another update on our progress towards making our improved safeguarding system a reality.

As a valued stakeholder we intend to give you as many regular updates as possible to ensure that you're kept fully in the picture about scheme developments and how they may affect you and your organisation.

Consequently, over the coming months, we will be both issuing detailed legal guidance and providing you with a tailored set of electronic downloads, publications, on-line guides and other tools that we hope will both answer your questions and enable you to plan for the introduction of the full ISA scheme.

However, if you have any specific questions or queries, please feel free to get in touch with us via the "contact us" page on the home page of our website (www.isa.gov.org).

Board members announced

The appointment of the Independent Safeguarding Authority's Board members, who will have strategic oversight for the delivery and direction of the new vetting and barring process, was announced on the 16th May.

Members of the Board have been chosen for their wide-ranging experience in working with vulnerable people, safeguarding issues and their experience of running organisations.

The new ISA Board members are Dr Valerie Brasse, Dr John Belcher C.B.E, Richard Black O.B.E, Donald Findlater, Tom Davies, Mehmuda Mian Pritchard, Professor Don Grubin, Debbie Ariyo, Moira Murray and Peter Withers. To find out more about the members and their backgrounds please visit <http://www.isa.gov.org/Default.aspx?page=9> .

Staff transfer

On 31 March 63 key staff from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) transferred out of the civil service to become public servants at the ISA.

These experienced individuals had all been involved in the ongoing safeguarding provision of the DCSF, administering the PoVA, PoCA and List 99 lists of those barred from working with children and vulnerable adults.

With their valuable knowledge of child and adult protection issues they form an experienced core for the new organisation and are already undertaking important work.

Ongoing casework

The ISA is working closely with DCSF to make recommendations to Ministers about which individuals should be placed on the PoVA, PoCA and List 99 lists of those barred from working with children and vulnerable adults.

At the same time the publicly appointed members of the ISA Board are working to finalise the criteria that will be used to place individuals who pose a risk onto the new barred lists. These lists will be owned and maintained by the ISA and, from October 2009, will replace the current barred lists.

Decision making responsibility

A second important milestone on the road towards the full implementation of the ISA Scheme will be reached this November when the ISA takes full responsibility from Government Ministers for placing individuals who pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults onto the PoVA, PoCA and List 99 lists.

With new independently agreed criteria to judge against and the back-up of extensive training, the decision makers at the ISA will be playing their part in safeguarding provision almost a year before the full ISA scheme goes live.

Caseworker recruitment

Since December 2007 the ISA has been in the process of recruiting the new caseworkers.

The response for these positions has been magnificent with over 1000 applications for the 110 caseworker roles available. Over the past five weeks the ISA have been undertaking the final interviewing stage, whittling down the 300 applicants who were successful to the final stage of selection for the available positions.

The standard of applicants has been impressive with applicants coming from a wide range of diverse sectors and bringing with them valuable knowledge and experience.

Consultation response

The second major public consultation on the impact and implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act – the legislation that enabled the creation of the ISA - was run by the DCSF between November 2007 and the end of February this year.

Asking stakeholder opinions on a variety of subjects from the definition of a vulnerable adult to the application of the ISA Scheme in mixed-aged sports settings, the consultation aimed to enable the creation of detailed guidance to enable employers and volunteer organisers to both understand and implement the Scheme as it is rolled out.

The official Government response to the consultation was published on the 30 May and can be accessed via <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm> . Thank you to all of you who contributed to this consultation.

Communications activity

As the start of the ISA Scheme draws ever nearer we will be communicating with a wide variety of audiences in an effort to ensure that all those who will become subject to the new legislation realise what is going on and what their responsibilities are.

In July this year we will communicate direct with thousands of intermediary bodies to provide them with the information that they need to inform their own stakeholder audiences about the new scheme.

Then in October – to mark one year before the ISA Scheme goes live – we will be running a major direct marketing campaign to target the employers and volunteer organisers who are going to be the first to put new recruits through the system. Look out for more letters and e-mails coming your way.

And finally don't forget.....

To keep checking our website at www.isa.gov.org for all the latest news, details of free information sessions, downloads, legal guidance and all the other tools that you'll need to help ensure that implementing the ISA Scheme is as quick and easy as possible.