



Good Practice Guidelines

One-to-one befriending schemes:

A befriender having unsupervised contact with a vulnerable adult will require a valid 'Enhanced DBS Disclosure'. References might also be required. 'Same gender' befriending relationships may be appropriate in many cases.

Drop-in Facilities: The overseer/s of any group assuming supervisory responsibility should obtain a suitable valid DBS Disclosure and should be present to oversee the group at all times and when planning 'outings' or other 'official' group organised events. DBS certificates are considered by BA /APCMH to be 'good practice' for every volunteer. However, they are not necessarily mandatory for all volunteers, providing that a volunteer who is not in possession of this qualification does not have one-to-one unsupervised contact with a vulnerable adult and providing that there is always supervision by those people in charge of the group who do have the valid DBS Disclosure/s and are on duty every time the group is open and at 'official' arranged outings.

Related issues: Any Drop-In group, operating without exclusive one-to-one contact between a volunteer and a member may find that some members may agree to meet privately outside the organised structure and framework of the group and the overseers of the group may feel this situation to be beyond its duty of regulation. In order to avoid complications, it should be made clear to all members of the group that any private meetings that are organised by its members beyond the structure of the 'official' group should reflect the ethics and governing principles of the group. It should be made clear that the organisers are not liable for any issues which may arise as a result of private arrangements which are conducted outside the agreed structure of the group where the person/s in charge possess the DBS certificate/s and is/are present throughout.

Useful Contacts:

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (previously CRB checks)

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) have merged to become the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). CRB checks are now called DBS checks which may be needed for certain jobs or voluntary work.

DBS customer services

customerservices@dbs.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 0200 190 Welsh: 0300 0200 191 Minicom: 0300 0200 192

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm Saturday, 10am to 5pm

www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/contact-disclosure-and-barring-service

UK Umbrella Services An organisation which may organise official DBS checks for £18 per person for those who work within the voluntary sector.

www.ukdbschecks.com Contact: Doug Rady: 01825 761407.

Disclaimer: These are the best opinions of Being Alongside but we would recommend consulting the DBS for individual concerns relating to befriending and drop-in initiatives.