

Safeguarding

It is important to make sure that any volunteers acting on behalf of the church have been safely recruited and to ensure that we are not connecting people up with those who may be vulnerable, who may exploit that contact and situation now or in the future.

- Where possible use people you have already safely recruited for other roles in church
- If you have people who have not undergone any safer recruitment process and this does not have to have included a DBS and they are going to be making contact with people in the congregation/ community on the church's behalf- then the safer recruitment process should be followed, but clearly will need to be modified a bit to avoid direct contact.
- As a minimum you need to use your usual judgement to establish if someone is suitable to do something on behalf of the church.
- In the current circumstances this could be ringing them and talking about what they are going to be doing, how they would approach the task, what they would do if they had any concerns, exploring their compliance with the current advice on social distancing and for those self-isolating etc.
- Make a note of this conversation.
- Seek references – could be done by email/ phone, 1 could be someone in church.
- If they are going to be doing shopping, handling money for someone self-isolating, the advice is that you should be at least trying to get a DBS for them. (These can be turned around very quickly. They have been coming back sometimes overnight.) It is worth ringing thirtyone:eight about whether they would be prepared to process a check in these circumstances. Our understanding is that handling money for a vulnerable person does qualify for a DBS.
- [Here](#) is the advice from the national church. The Government has published [guidance](#) about DBS checks and identity checking in light of the effects of COVID-19, with advice on viewing identity documents remotely:
- Get new volunteers to complete the online basic awareness training

We would also advise that you give clear guidance re what you are asking people to do; who to go to if they have any concerns, including safeguarding issues and about keeping themselves safe, blocking their number if they want to do this; keeping any personal data for people they may have been asked to ring safe and the latest advice re Government health advice. It is important to maintain oversight/ a record of what people are doing on behalf of church and be checking in with them about how this is going and that they are ok.