

Disclosure and Barring Service

The CRB has been replaced by the DBS

On 20th December 2012, the Home Office web site published the following statement:

“Free portable criminal records checks announced for volunteers

Volunteers will soon benefit from a free service which will allow them to re-use criminal records checks time and time again, the government announced today.

The move will cut red-tape and reduce the burden on those who give up their time to work with vulnerable groups.

From early next year, millions of employees and volunteers will no longer have to apply for a new criminal records check each time they apply for a job.

*Instead they will only have to apply once to the **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** for a certificate and can then go online for an instant check to find out whether their existing certificate is still up to date.*

This will avoid the need for individuals to apply for multiple checks to work with different organisations and volunteers will be able to use the service for free when they apply for different volunteering opportunities.”

BT comment:

The change to the current system is intended to speed up the recruitment process for public and private sector employers, saving organisations time and money and making it easier for people to change jobs in the same sector while ensuring robust safeguarding measures are in place.

- **Legal requirements based on DBS checks provide no absolute guarantee of child protection.**
- **The placement of young people with adults must always be within a wider consideration of all the issues, based on a common sense approach, supported by a risk-benefit assessment.**
- **Employees that engage in “regulated activities” or work “frequently” or “intensively” in “specified establishments” should undergo a DBS check carried out as part of their recruitment process.**
- **“Frequently” is defined as once a week or more**
- **“Intensively” is defined as overnight or 4 days or more in a month**
- **Volunteers who always work under the direct supervision of a suitably vetted member of staff do not have to undergo a DBS check. e.g. a volunteer who occasionally helps set up a school camp**