

Committee: Children and Young People Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 4 February 2010

ISA/Registration / Vetting & Barring Scheme

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Introduction

On 2 July 2009 we presented an overview of the Vetting and Barring scheme and committed to coming back to the committee with a further update. Since this date further information has been received from the Home Office. In December 2009 there were also some changes made to the frequency of contact with children or vulnerable adults that would require a post or individual to be ISA registered.

The changes

In December 2009 Ed Balls, Secretary of State received further recommendations from Roger Singleton, Chief Adviser for Children Schools and Families on the criteria for regulated Activity. These recommendations were agreed by Ed Balls.

The December recommendations have changed the description of frequent or intensive as follows:

	Was	Now	
Frequent	Once a month or more	Once a week or more	Individuals who go into different schools or equivalent settings to work with different groups of children or adults, will not be required to register.
Intensive	Three days or more in any thirty day period	Four days or more in any thirty day period	

The above means that fewer posts will require ISA registration than previously thought.

Next stages

During October and November 2009 an exercise was undertaken to identify which posts in the Council required ISA registration.

The changes to the frequent and intensive criteria requires a follow up exercise to review those previously identified as undertaking regulated activity to confirm that still meet the criteria.

The changes will not impact on people who work in a specified place i.e. School Governors who will still need to be ISA registered.

ISA registration is required only for Members who have responsibility to discharge any of the authority's education or social services functions. This means that only Cabinet Members will require ISA registration.

Once the review of ISA requirements has taken place a five year phasing plan will be produced to ensure all existing employees are registered as outlined in the Home Office timetable.

We will also identify how many people will require ISA registration and the cost to the organisation. CLT will then be asked to decide if employees will be required to pay for the registration or if we will pay the fee on their behalf as employer.

A Safer Recruitment intranet site is now available to update employees on why Safer Recruitment is important. This includes information on the ISA.