



Third Sector
Dumfries and Galloway

Policy Briefing No 5 Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Working together to put our sector first

In this briefing:

- ◆ What is regulated work?
- ◆ Not sure if your organisation carries out regulated work?
- ◆ Contact us, we are here to help.
- ◆ How does the PVG scheme differ from the disclosure system?
- ◆ What role does third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway play?
- ◆ Meet the deadline
- ◆ What do I do need next?



Introduction

Does your organisation undertake **regulated work** with children or protected adults?

If the answer is yes, you need to consider your requirements under the [Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme](#) (PVG) for your employees or volunteers who undertake regulated work with children or protected adults.

Here to help

It is not possible to provide a definitive list of roles, positions and types of activity that is regulated work, not least because the structure and descriptions of people's work (including volunteer roles) is constantly changing. Instead, the [Protecting Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) defines regulated work by reference to:

- ◆ The activities that a person does
- ◆ The establishments in which a person works
- ◆ The position that a person holds
- ◆ The people for whom a person has day to day supervision or management responsibility for

There are two types of regulated work:

- ◆ Regulated work with children
- ◆ Regulated work with adults

The reason for having two types of regulated work (and two corresponding lists of individuals who are unsuitable to do such work) is to allow for the fact that unsuitability to work with one group does not always go hand in hand with unsuitability to work with the other.

If you are unsure whether or not your organisation undertakes regulated work you can use the on line [self assessment tool](#) provided by Disclosure Scotland or you can contact us and we will provide you with help and guidance.

How does the PVG Scheme differ from the previous disclosure system?

The PVG Scheme came into operation in March 2011. It replaced the previously used Enhanced Disclosures for those undertaking regulated work with children or protected adults. The PVG Scheme offers the following improvements; continuous updating, ensuring that new information indicating that a person may be unsuitable is acted upon promptly; strengthened protection for adults; effective barring; and streamlined disclosure.

A more detailed description of the differences between the PVG Scheme and the previous disclosure system can be found on the [Disclosure Scotland](#) web site.

What role does Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway play?

We receive funding from the Scottish Government to ensure that organisations in the third sector understand their responsibilities in respect of the PVG Scheme. We also work with [Volunteer Scotland](#) to provide a [Disclosure Service](#).

We provide a processing and application checking service for PVG Scheme applications. For volunteers, the application process is free of charge, however an administration fee of £10 applies per application. (This covers the costs of postage, photocopying and telephone calls). For paid members of staff within your organisation requiring a PVG check, our service costs £69. This covers the fee of £59 charged by Disclosure Scotland plus our £10 administration fee. If the staff member is already a member of the PVG scheme, but requires a scheme update, our service costs £28. This covers the fee of £18 charged by Disclosure Scotland, plus our £10 administration fee.

For more information and the necessary forms please contact us, by telephone on 0300 303 8558 or by email on info@thirdsector.dumgal.org.uk

Meet the deadline - What do I need to do next?

We are now half way through the 3-year period scheduled for updating Enhanced Disclosure checks to PVGs for people undertaking regulated work with children or protected adults. If you have employees or volunteers who are currently checked under the previous Enhanced Disclosure scheme, **and** who are undertaking regulated work, these disclosures need to be updated to reflect the new PVG Scheme.

You have until October 2015 to do this.

This means if you have employees or volunteers undertaking regulated work with children or protected adults, you need to ensure they are members of the PVG Scheme by this date. Please note, Enhanced Disclosures are still available for other posts, eg those working in prisons are entitled to an enhanced disclosure or if there is a person over the age of 16 in a house where the parents are considering fostering, this individual would have an enhanced disclosure.

This Policy Briefing is a Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway publication. For further information or permission to reproduce its content please contact:

Hayley McGowan, Policy, Research and Community Planning Officer:

A: 16 Queensberry Street, Dumfries, DG1 1EX

T: 0300 303 8558

E: hayley@thirdsectordumgal.org.uk

Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway is the operating name of Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Interface, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC043832. Funded by the Scottish Government, Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway.