



S T A T E M E N T

Recent media coverage of the forthcoming Vetting and Barring Scheme has led to a number of enquiries from clubs and England Hockey would like to provide the following information to our members.

The Vetting and Barring Scheme came out of the inquiry to the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman as a recommendation to prevent unsuitable persons working with young people and vulnerable adults. It is a registration scheme that will inform employers if someone is barred from undertaking paid or voluntary work with children or vulnerable adults. In a hockey context, 'employers' means any organisation deploying people in a paid or voluntary capacity working with young people. The barring decision will be made by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

England Hockey fully supports any scheme which helps to protect young people and vulnerable adults.

Since the legislation introducing the scheme was passed in 2006 England Hockey has been working closely with other sports to understand the details and prepare for its introduction. Although media coverage is increasing in the run up to its introduction, sports sector specific guidance is not expected until early 2010 and therefore it remains difficult for England Hockey to provide our members with full details of the scheme at this time. We will continue to lobby the government for this information so that our members can prepare for the scheme. In the meantime, much of the media coverage remains speculation.

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Once the final details of the scheme are confirmed England Hockey will provide its members with all the guidance they require in order to comply with its requirements. We believe the scheme will be phased in over a five year period from July 2010, however from 12 October 2009 it will become:

- a duty to refer names of people who may pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults
- an offence to knowingly use a barred individual for a role working with children or vulnerable adults

Until sports sector specific information is available, England Hockey's advice to clubs and associations is to follow the guidance within *Proud to Protect*, its Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy and Procedures. This includes information on reporting concerns and good recruitment practice which will ensure clubs meet the elements of the Vetting and Barring Scheme coming into effect on 12 October 2009.

England Hockey will be updating Proud to Protect when the full extent of the Vetting and Barring Scheme becomes clear; this will include updated guidance on the transportation of young people which has been the focus of much of the recent media attention.

If you want more information about England Hockey's Proud to Protect policy and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checking service visit www.englishockey.co.uk/safe and www.englishockey.co.uk/crb.