

LOCAL FRIENDS

Helping ordinary people care for one another

Safeguarding

Introduction

Local Friends operates as a trusted third party to enable medical professionals to refer people to a Pastoral Care Team in their local community. *Local Friends* provides guidelines and standards which are both public and shared across the various local schemes, although additional guidelines and standards can be agreed locally as required.

The Pastoral Care Team will belong to a church or group of churches or other faith communities; and membership of this team is determined by each local scheme, as are any conditions for membership.

Summary

A Disclosure and Barring Service ('DBS') check is required if someone undertakes one or more regulated activities as defined by current legislation. A DBS check must be undertaken if the check is legally required, and cannot be undertaken otherwise: these checks are never optional. DBS checks replace the Criminal Records Bureau ('CRB') checks, which are now no longer available.

Local Friends does not require that the members of the Pastoral Care Team have DBS checks because the activity undertaken by the members as *Local Friends* volunteers is not a regulated activity as defined in the legislation. However, the local scheme may require volunteers to be DBS checked due to the nature of the other activities the volunteers undertake.

Where a DBS check is required, this will be requested and administered by the body providing volunteers for the local scheme; *Local Friends* will be notified that a check has been undertaken, but will not receive any details of or information about the results of the check: these remain confidential within the local scheme. *Local Friends* can advise on the administration of DBS checks, including security and confidentiality, but the local scheme remains responsible for undertaking this activity and complying with the relevant standards.

Local Friends operates on the basis of trust, establishing both a network of trusted relationships within the local community and also a mechanism for quickly responding to any concerns, criticisms or complaints which may be voiced as a result of our activities. DBS checks will not establish trust, but the correct, transparent, honest and prompt management of the checks, where they are undertaken, can help to establish an environment in which trust is encouraged and strengthened.