

Issue Area 4: Engagement types/forms of contact.

In the discussion paper it was proposed that people will be checked when 'contact' with vulnerable people is 'regular and systematic' and involves:

- any form of physical contact;
- any form of communication;
- working within close proximity to vulnerable people;
- working with records relating to vulnerable people; and/or
- the making of decisions affecting vulnerable people.

One respondent did not support the definition, expressing concern about the inclusion of people working with records relating to vulnerable people in circumstances where they do not have direct contact with the vulnerable persons.

Should people working with records relating to vulnerable people be screened? If so should criteria be developed to assist in the identification of when this is appropriate?

People working with records requires clarification.

The safety issue relates to the level of risk a position poses to children/yp safety. Within the SCP standards, organisations are obliged to include all "involved personnel" This includes all staff with direct contact, supervisory and management roles, programmatic and policy decision making and responsibility, and applies to paid and volunteers alike.

The regulation is functionally an organisational one consistent with the organisational commitment to safeguarding. The danger of restricting eligibility to apply for a WWCC, disallows organisations to undertake an appropriately comprehensive screen of all involved personnel.

Self Help Groups and personal development

A number of respondents have raised questions relating to the impact of the WWCVP checks on participation in consumer self help groups, and consumer involvement in the planning delivery and management of services. Examples given include Alcoholics Anonymous and self managed mental health support groups, parent involved play groups and participation in activities with Neighbourhood Houses.

Concerns also include the impact on employing (or involving as volunteers) people with lived experience of particular experience.

Should participants in consumer self help groups be required to undergo a WWCVP check. If not, under what circumstances should participants be exempted?

No, participants in self help consumer groups should not be required to undergo a check. These people are co-participants in an activity, and are not undertaking a position of responsibility in relation to children or vulnerable people. Again, this highlights the difficulty of including vulnerable people in a check that was primarily designed to protect children. The original aim of protecting children may be lost in an effort to categorise and cover all vulnerable people. The UK system which also includes vulnerable people utilises such a broad classification that people held