

Volunteer Scotland – Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Changes for Parent Groups Q and A in partnership with Connect will start shortly

- Please keep your microphone on mute and your camera off
- Say hello in Chat and tell us the name of your school/local authority
- If you have a burning question, please feel free to put this in the chat just now
- **We are recording this session**





Ground Rules



- Please type your name, school/nursery, and local authority in Chat
- Type a question or comment in Chat at any time
- Please keep your camera and microphone off
- Do contact us by email if you have further questions
- **We are recording this session**
- We will email out the slides and links
- Please do not name anyone else, we will share the Chat file at the end of the session
- Everyone OK?





Session Feedback



Connect

- is a membership organisation and
- aims to deliver resources and support to help you in your role

Please provide feedback to us on your experience of this session

[Evaluation Form Here](#) or use your camera to open the QR code

Or share your thoughts with Connect at [**feedback@connect.scot**](mailto:feedback@connect.scot)

Whether you have suggestions, concerns, or positive experiences, your input helps shape the future of Connect. We appreciate your support!

Thank you





What's this session about



- We are delighted to partner with Volunteer Scotland to present information on the changes to the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG).
- This session will provide information about how your parent group can prepare for the changes to the scheme and access free PVG checks





About Connect



- Only charity and membership organisation for parent groups, with 25 local authorities taking out membership for their Parent Councils
- Parent Councils in other authorities, PTAs and other parent led groups take out their own membership
- Regular surveys of parents help us prioritise support for families
- **Connect member support:**
 - Help & advice via email, social media and website
 - Online Information Sessions
 - Facebook, Bluesky and Instagram
 - Monthly eNewsletters
 - Backchat
 - Making parents' voices heard





Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020

Your host, Duncan Steele



Introduction

Aim of today,

- To introduce the Disclosure (Scotland) Act and highlight the main forthcoming changes to the PVG process.

Agenda,

- Areas of change – think about how this will impact us.
- Answer any questions

Safeguarding

Legal Requirement

- Anyone doing work/volunteering with vulnerable groups will be required to be a member of the PVG Scheme.
- It will be an offence to work in such a role without first joining the PVG Scheme or to employ someone in a role who you have not confirmed is an appropriate PVG scheme member
- There will be a grace period between April and June.

Safeguarding

- It will be an offence for an organisation to offer any new type of regulated role unless they have received a PVG scheme confirming that the individual has joined or is already a member of the PVG scheme in relation to that type of regulated role.
- An organisation is not to be treated as having offered a regulated role to an individual if the offer is conditional.



Safeguarding

- There will be a 3-month grace period until **1st July 2025**. The PVG scheme application for those in regulated roles must be submitted by **30th June 2025**.
- This will ensure individuals and organisations won't immediately commit an offence if there are individuals who are not yet PVG scheme members but who are working in regulated role.

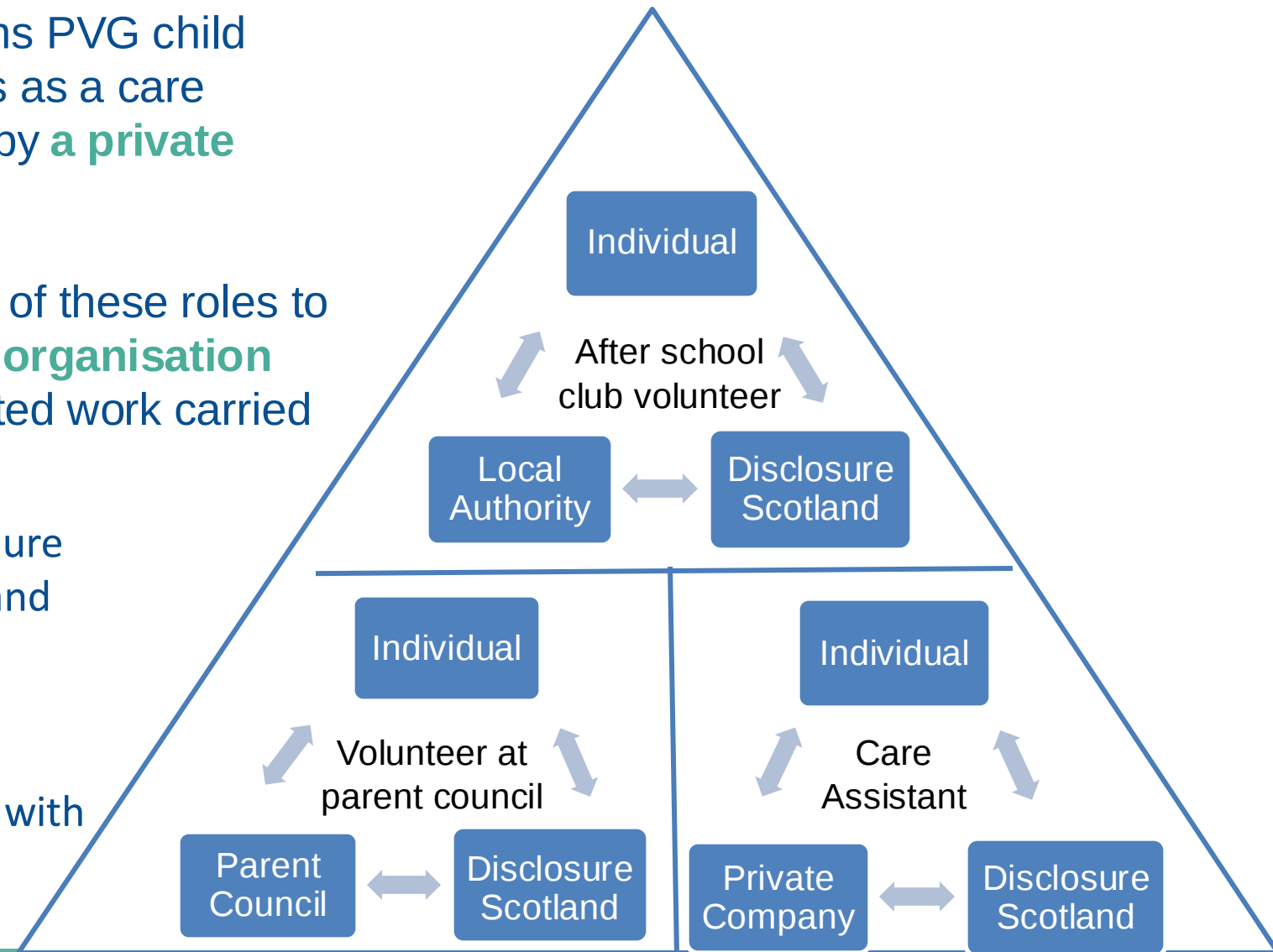


An individual volunteers at an after school club on behalf of a **local authority**. The person also runs PVG child activities for a **parent council** and works as a care assistant in a residential care home run by **a private company**.

A PVG application is necessary for each of these roles to provide the link between the **individual, organisation** and **Disclosure Scotland** for the regulated work carried out.

Ensures links between all parties and Disclosure Scotland to provide continuous monitoring and strengthen safeguarding.

Never rely on seeing a PVG certificate the applicant obtained for doing regulated work with another organisation.

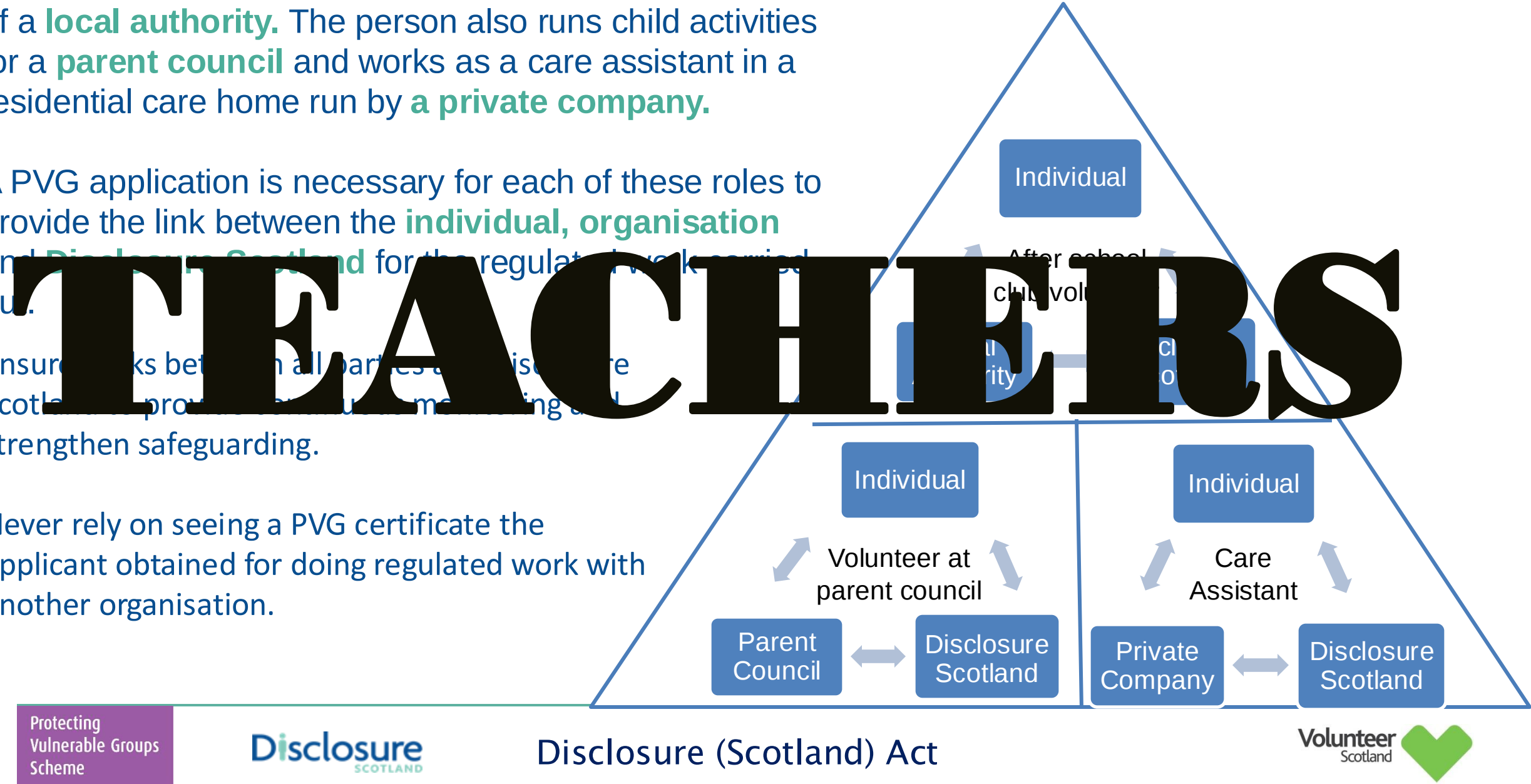


An individual volunteers at an after school club on behalf of a **local authority**. The person also runs child activities for a **parent council** and works as a care assistant in a residential care home run by a **private company**.

A PVG application is necessary for each of these roles to provide the link between the **individual, organisation** and **Disclosure Scotland** for the regulated work carried out.

Ensure links between all parties to disclose to the Scottish Government to ensure meaningful and strengthen safeguarding.

Never rely on seeing a PVG certificate the applicant obtained for doing regulated work with another organisation.



Safeguarding

Regulated Roles

- Replace the concept of ‘doing regulated work’ with ‘**Regulated Roles**’ that qualify for PVG scheme membership
- Roles will be determined by power or influence they have over children or adults who are protected as a result of receiving a service
- The presence of specific activities within the role will determine the disclosure type.
- Easier to understand and for employers to identify when to utilise PVG scheme

Safeguarding

- **Normal Duties** – Activities are likely to be normal duties when they appear on a job or task description, contract or can reasonably be expected or anticipated
- **Regular** – There is no definition of regular, this may be daily, weekly, monthly, yearly
- **Incidental to role** – An activity is likely to be incidental to the role when it is not regular or normal duties
- **Incidental to purpose/target group** – An activity is likely to be incidental to the purpose/target group when it's open to all, attractive to a wide cross section of society or the group/activity is targeted at another workforce

Safeguarding

Regulated Roles

- There will be 2 types of regulated roles, roles with children and roles with adults.
- Children will be under **18**, Adults will be **18** and above.
- Activities –
- Link to the Childrens regulated roles - [Disclosure \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)
- Link to the Adult regulated roles - [Disclosure \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)

Safeguarding

Regulated Roles

The first consideration is whether there is contact with children.

The Disclosure (Scotland) Act defines children as everyone under **18**.

- Physical Contact
- Written Communication
- Verbal Communication
- Visual Communication
- Exercising Power or Influence

What is exercising power or influence?

- (a) assisting, facilitating, permitting or impeding progress towards a desirable objective or outcome for a particular child,
- (b) making decisions of an operational or strategic nature that could have an impact on a number of children, or
- (c) persuading or putting pressure on a particular child to behave or act in a certain manner for the financial gain or personal gratification of a person other than the child.

Safeguarding

Holding a position of responsibility in an organisation which has as **one** of its main purposes, the provision of benefits for or to children and/or protected adults (regardless of whether the organisation has an additional purpose of providing benefits for or to another group of persons)

If this activity applies to your organisation, it will mean that all roles who have a “position of responsibility” will require PVG scheme membership. That may include your trustees, management committee members, board members or directors

Being in a Power or Influence position means that those in that role will qualify for a PVG check even though there is no direct contact with children and/or protected adults.

Safeguarding

We are a third sector playgroup with a parent committee that changes every year. Roles are voted in at annual AGM in June. At what point will these individuals need to get a PVG? Will it be ok to apply once they are voted in and hope that the applications are through by the start of the academic year in August? (we are term time).

It will be an offence for an organisation to offer any type of regulated role to an individual unless the organisation has received a PVG Scheme result, which confirms that the individual participates in the Scheme in relation to that type of regulated role.

In this scenario, it may be acceptable for the check to be carried out on prospective candidates in advance of the decision, as part of assessing their overall suitability for the role. Organisations may need to require individuals to declare their interest in advance of the board/AGM to facilitate the necessary PVG checks being carried out.

Safeguarding

Jennifer is the chair of a school parent council (PC). Michael is a member of the PC. Jennifer and Michael both help organise fundraising events, including discos and fairs, as well as chairing and attending PC meetings.

When events are held,

- Jennifer is responsible for the money raised and is a member of the organising committee. Jennifer does not have contact with children.
- Michael is responsible for unaccompanied children at events and ensuring their safety.

- Jennifer is in a regulated role as is in contact with children and carrying out a regulated activity. The contact is not direct contact but is from Jennifer being in a role, chair, that has power or influence over activities that are being offered to children.

- Michael is in a regulated role as is in contact with children and carrying out regulated activities. In Michael's case, the activity is being in charge of a child/children as part of their normal duties as a member of the parent council.

5 Step Assessment

Step 1

Is it Work?

5 Step Assessment

Step 2

Working with Who?

Are they working with children or protected adults?

5 Step Assessment

Step 3

What are they doing?

*Is the work they are doing considered regulated activity?
Are they working in a regulated location?*

5 Step Assessment

Step 4

Is their normal duties?

Or is the regulated activity “incidental”?

5 Step Assessment

Step 5

Do exceptions apply?

*Supervisor or line manager
Positions of power or influence*

Simplifying

Simplification of Disclosures

- Disclosures will be across 2 distinct levels
 - **LEVEL 1** and **LEVEL 2**

Simplifying Disclosures

Disclosure Act	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	Level 2 with barred list check	PVG SCHEME (JOIN)	PVG SCHEME (EXISTING)*	Confirmation of PVG scheme membership
Cost	£25	£25	£25	£59	£18	£59 (join) £18 (existing)
Purpose	any role for any purpose	specific "exempted" roles	specific "exempted" roles	regulated roles	regulated roles	regulated roles
How to apply	online or paper application	email or paper application	email or paper application	online or paper application	online or paper application	online or paper application
Unspent convictions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sex offenders register		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Relevant spent convictions		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Other relevant information		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Consideration status			✓	✓	✓	✓
Suitability information			✓	✓	✓	✓
PVG membership status				✓	✓	✓
Continuous monitoring updates				✓	✓	

*WHEN APPLYING FOR THE SAME WORKFORCE

Privacy

Membership Length

- End of lifetime PVG Scheme membership, replaced with (renewable) time-limited membership of **5 years**. (Scheduled for 1st April 2026)
- Those joining the PVG Scheme tend to remain in it long after they no longer undertake regulated work.
- Members can make multiple applications during 5 year period.
- Helps to ensure employers are not notified of sensitive information on an individual after they have left regulated roles/work, reducing the risk this presents to an employer within **GDPR / Data Protection Act 2018**.

Privacy

Age Restrictions

- There will be a minimum age of **16 years old** on obtaining a disclosure check.
- Under 16s will be allowed to be in a regulated role but you will not be able to PVG check them.
- Convictions accrued between the ages of **12 and 17** will not automatically be released on a disclosure.

Privacy

Reduce Disclosure Period for Certain Convictions

- Reduces the periods certain convictions will be disclosed for from **15 years** to **11 years**.
- Necessary that relevant and serious convictions continue to be disclosed.
- **11** years mirrors arrangements elsewhere in the UK but allows for significant extended disclosure of relevant spent convictions on Level 2 disclosures.

Volunteer
Scotland



Volunteer Scotland Registration

**Volunteer Scotland Online PVG
Application Service**

Enrolling with VSDS

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services Parent Council Enrolment Form



This form is to be used to enrol parent councils. It must be completed in full by the person who will become the groups Lead Signatory (our main contact with your Parent Council).

Once completed, please email to disclosures@volunteerscotland.org.uk

Name of your group	
Name of contact person (including title)	
Contact address (including postcode)	
Contact telephone number	
Contact email address	
Security Question 1 Mother's family name	
Security Question 2 Town of birth	

Please **delete*** as appropriate for the following 4 statements:-

I confirm that our group is a not for profit (voluntary sector) organisation

***Yes/No**

I confirm that our group has a secure handling policy in place

***Yes/No**

I confirm that our group has a referrals policy in place

***Yes/No**

I confirm our organisation will receive disclosure information

***By post/By telephone**

Please note that if you cannot confirm the 4 statements above, you will need to provide confirmation before your group can be enrolled.

PVG Positions	for example, Children's activities volunteer Afterschool activities supervisor

Identification Verification Form

To be completed by a Committee Member/Trustee

We need verification of the identity of your organisation's new nominated lead signatory. This part of the form should be completed by a member of your organisation's management committee.

+	
Name of your group	
Name of proposed lead signatory	
Their position in your organisation	
Identification documents viewed (please check at least 2 separate documents, one confirming their home address and one piece of photographic identification)	

I confirm that the person named above will be our lead signatory and confirm that I have verified their identity using the documents detailed above.

Name of person verifying identification	
Your position in the group	
Date	

What does this mean for Parent Councils?

- PVG will become a legal requirement for those who require a check - any volunteers who are regularly volunteering with your PC or who are supervising children at your events, will need to apply. It will be an offense to use regular volunteers who are not registered through your Parent Council. This also means Parent Councils can no longer rely on school staff or teachers to volunteer for events, unless the individual is registered for a PVG update through the Parent Council.
- An individual membership will need to be renewed every 5 years - PCs need to keep track of this to ensure your volunteers are covered otherwise it would be an offense for the individual and the Parent Council if they continue to volunteer without renewing.

Key Changes - Summary

- Legal Requirement PVG checks
- Regulated Roles
- Standard Conditions (Late 25)
- Referrals
- Personal Employment
- Simplifying Disclosures
- Digital Delivery
- Accredited Bodies
- Membership Length (April 26)
- Age Restrictions
- Childhood conviction
- Application Process for Removable Convictions
- Reduce Disclosure Period for Certain Convictions
- Other Relevant Information (ORI)



Any final Questions



Thank You!



Volunteer Scotland

Jubilee House, Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ

Tel: 01786 849777

Email:

complianceandtraining@volunteerscotland.org.uk

Website: volunteerscotland.net



[@volscotland](https://twitter.com/volscotland)



[@volscotland](https://facebook.com/volscotland)



[@volunteerscotland](https://instagram.com/volunteerscotland)

Thinking about becoming a member? More information [here](#) and use the form

Lots of helpful resources for at www.connect.scot

Subscribe to our [eNewsletter](#) to stay in touch

Enquiries to info@connect.scot

Share your views through [Parents' Voice](#)



[Bluesky](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[X](#)

**We hope you
enjoyed this
information session!
Please share any
feedback with us
[feedback@connect.
scot](mailto:feedback@connect.scot)**

Connect's Transport to School Survey

Please tell us about your child or young person's journey to school, how they travel and whether there are any barriers to your family's preferred travel and transport to school choices.

We're keen to hear from you to see how preferences and practicalities impact on travel to school across Scotland!
Closes 10 April 2025

Click [here](#) to complete and please share with your fellow parent/ carers





Future Information Sessions



- Online Safety for Families with Police Scotland in partnership with Connect: online (**open to all**), 29 April, Book [Here](#)
- For Connect Members - Communication and Social Media for Parent Groups: online, 6 May, Book [Here](#)
- For Connect Members – Building School and Community Partnerships: online, 13 May, Book [Here](#)
- For Connect Members – Top Tips for Dealing with Challenging Situations, online, 20 May, Book [Here](#)
- For Connect Members - Chat with Connect – Role of the Chair: online, 27 May, Book [Here](#)
- Talking Points – Learning Through Play & Kindergarten with Upstart, online (**open to all**), 3 June, Book [Here](#)
- For Connect Members – Parent Group Drop-In Clinic: online, 10 June, Book [Here](#)
- For Connect Members– Understanding Conflict, Behaviours and Needs with Scottish Mediation, online, 17 June, Book [Here](#)