

Safeguarding and DBS Factsheet: FAQs – For Individuals wanting to help

This FAQ document is designed to address specific concerns that people involved in supporting their community may have at this time.

We know that many people will want to volunteer to support their local communities, to register your interest to volunteer please sign up with the Volunteer Centre Dorset here: [Community Volunteer Signup Form](#)

There are many ways to help, but it is important it is done safely for all involved. The [‘how to help safely’ guidance](#) explains this.

It is vital to remember that you must stay home to protect the NHS and save lives, except for very limited purposes. While you can still provide care or help to a vulnerable person, you must avoid all non-essential contact. Check [NHS guidance](#).

What if I have a criminal record? Will that stop me from volunteering?

If you have a criminal record you can still volunteer for most roles. If you are asked by the volunteer organiser for a DBS check for your volunteering role, you can discuss anything that is disclosed on the certificate with them.

The only people who are legally prevented from volunteering with children and vulnerable adults are those who have been barred from doing so. If you have been barred by the DBS, you will have been informed by DBS, so you will know you have been barred and from what type of work. If you have been barred by DBS from certain types of work, then you would be committing an offence by trying to do that work.

Do I need a DBS check if I’m helping with personal care, such as washing and dressing?

If you are helping in this way for a friend or family member, then you don’t apply for a DBS check. **However, it is not expected that community volunteers will be offering personal care to strangers. These activities should be provided by professionals.**

If someone requires that type of personal care and they don’t have the necessary services in place, you should help them to contact the appropriate health and social care services.

My DBS check has recently expired. Do I need to apply for a new one?

As DBS checks do not have an expiry date. Speak with the group you are volunteering with, they may choose to accept the check that you already have.

Do I need a DBS check if I’m helping with medical care?

If someone you are supporting requires medical care, and they don’t have the necessary services already in place, you should help them to contact the appropriate health or social care services.

Medical care should be provided by professionals, or specialist volunteers with the appropriate skills, training and checks.