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### **The Independent Safeguarding Authority**

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 lays the foundation for a new scheme which aims to help avoid harm, or risk of harm, to children and vulnerable adults. The scheme will aim to do this by preventing those who are deemed unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults from gaining access to them through their work. This will be done by:

Providing employers with a more effective and streamlined vetting service for potential employees.

- Barring unsuitable individuals from working, or seeking to work, with children and vulnerable adults at the earliest opportunity;
- The new scheme will be phased in from autumn 2008.

The responsibility for taking barring decisions under the new arrangements (previously referred to as the Vetting and Barring Scheme) will lie with a new Independent Safeguarding Authority (previously referred to as the Independent Barring Board), which will be an independent statutory body. The application processes for decisions will be run by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Human resources are keeping up-to-date with developments and will continue to raise awareness and undertake training across the Trust, as appropriate.