



## **The PQASSO Quality Mark**

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has endorsed the latest version of Charities Evaluation Services' (CES) PQASSO Quality Mark

The regulator's Quality Assessment Endorsement Programme aims to increase governance standards and accountability within charities by encouraging the sector to develop quality standards that charities commit to.

The Charity Commission only endorses quality systems that meet its challenging benchmark for comprehensive, robust and objective assessments of how charities are run.

Endorsed quality systems require compliance and accountability, and test for those key aspects of a charity's governance that are most likely to produce a well-run, accountable and sustainable organisation.

CES is a national charity with over 23 years experience in helping organisations to improve their effectiveness and demonstrate the outcomes and impact of their work.

PQASSO, the CES quality standard, is the lead quality standard in use in the voluntary sector - over 14,000 copies of PQASSO have been sold since its initial development in 1997.

The PQASSO standards provide the basis for the PQASSO Quality Mark - the externally assessed award for PQASSO users. The PQASSO Quality Mark assesses charities using independent reviewers, to confirm achievement of the PQASSO standards.

## **Guide to Using DBS Checks as Part of Managing**

### **Safeguarding Risk**

Children England has co-produced Our Decision with the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) and the Disclosure and Barring Service. Our Decision is a package of support being

developed to aide voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations working with children, young people and families with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) application process.

Following the introduction of the DBS, there have been a number of changes to barring and criminal records checks with an increased responsibility for local groups and organisations to use their own judgement. Whilst many groups and organisations will welcome the opportunity to make their own decisions on safeguarding matters, it may feel like a daunting process for others.

*Our Decision*, which is also supported by Safe Network and the DBS, will provide organisations with a resource and capacity building opportunities to help organisations feel confident with the process and make effective decisions related to the level of supervision and checking required. This will include a series of workshops from January to March 2014 to provide face to face opportunities for VCS organisations to build their capacity.