**Can you volunteer if you have a Criminal Record?**

Yes!  Although it may limit the type of volunteering you are able to do.

It is likely you will have to have a Disclosure & Barring Service check (DBS) if you are working with children, young people or vulnerable people.

In such instances, it is likely that the role will be exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 which means that all previous convictions, however minor or long ago must be disclosed.

*What roles are eligible for a DBS check?*

You must not apply for a DBS check unless the volunteering role or paid job you are recruiting to is eligible for one. You must tell the applicant why they’re being checked, and where they can get independent advice from the organisation. Normally, you aren’t allowed to ask job/volunteer applicants about spent convictions, but for roles that need a DBS check this rule doesn’t apply. DBS eligibility guidance lists most roles that are eligible for a check. However, the guidance isn’t comprehensive. Ask us if you’re unsure. Working with adults The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 amended the definition of regulated activity relating to adults from 10 September 2012.

***What has changed?***

The new definition no longer refers to the word “vulnerable” for regulated activity relating to adults the specified establishment (a care home) has been removed – the focus is on the activities needed by the adult, not where the activity takes place the frequency test has been removed – an individual only needs to engage in the activities listed below once to be carrying out regulated activity relating to adults. The definition focuses on those activities which, should they be needed by any adult, mean that an adult is considered vulnerable at the point of receiving them. The definition applies to individuals undertaking the following activities: healthcare for adults provided by, or under the direction or supervision of a regulated health care professional personal care for adults involving hands-on physical assistance with washing and dressing, eating, drinking and toileting; prompting and supervising an adult with any of these tasks because of their age, illness or disability; or teaching someone to do one of these tasks social work – provision by a social care worker of social work which is required in connection with any health services or social services assistance with an adult’s cash, bills or shopping because of their age, illness or disability arranged via a third party assisting in the conduct of an adult’s own affairs under a formal appointment conveying (ie transporting) adults for reasons of age, illness or disability to, from, or between places, where they receive healthcare, personal care or social work arranged via a third party.