



## **Direct Payments – Safe Recruitment Practices**

### **Disclosure and Barring Service checks**

#### **-Making sure your child is not put at risk-**

When you employ a PA to look after your child, the service they provide is not regulated by any outside agency. Kent Children's Social Services Directorate's policy is that **everyone** working with children should have a current Enhanced DBS check. This also applies to people you already know or relatives you may wish to employ.

A DBS check is a thorough criminal records check.

#### **Applying for the DBS check**

You cannot apply for the DBS check yourself – the application must be made by the prospective PA. Kent County Council contracts the Parents Consortium Direct Payment Service to carry out these checks. It also covers the full cost of the check for PA's who are employed by families/young disabled people in receipt of a direct payment. Self-employed PA's are responsible for paying for their own DBS check.

You will need to make your DP Support Worker aware if your child is to be taken to the PA's own home as there may be additional checks you wish to be made.

#### **When the check has been completed**

The results of the DBS check will be sent to the applicant, not to you. You will not have access to the results of the check unless the applicant chooses to show them to you. You will, however, be contacted by your direct payment support worker and they will tell you whether you can go ahead and employ that person, but they will not be able to discuss the content of the DBS with you.

