

The **AN-F66** case

9. I had known **AN-F66** informally right from the start of my time in **the Parish** although I did not know any of his detailed background. In the summer of **DPA** I took on the responsibility of **the church**. In or around December 2016, I discussed the possibility of **AN-F66** taking on a pastoral role within the parish. There had been conversations within the church about the possibility of establishing a new pastoral visiting team, and expressions of interest had been invited. However, **AN-F66**'s response was that he would not do so as he did not want to get a DBS check. My understanding of that comment was that he did not want to undergo a DBS check because he considered it to involve a degree of administrative hassle and paperwork. This was not – and is not - an uncommon attitude among older members of the church. In hindsight, however, I could have probed more into his background at that time and made further enquiries.
10. **The PSO** then approached me in March 2017 to query whether **AN-F66** needed a DBS check as part of his role as a **DPA** in the parish (which was one of a few different jobs that **AN-F66** did). **The PSO** was **AN-F66**'s brother, and was aware of his background. It was at that time that I heard from him about a background DBS issue which involved the police and a conviction. However, I had no specific knowledge of the nature of the convictions or any of the details of his case - which I now know dated back to 1979 and 1980 - until much later. This was perhaps another occasion on which I should have asked further questions and got a more complete understanding of this background.
11. When I was given this limited background, I made a quick assessment of the activities with which **AN-F66** was involved, and whether he was an active risk (e.g. considering the extent to which he came into contact with children). Despite concluding that he was not, I recommended that **the PSO** speak to the DSA.
12. I followed up on my suggestion a few weeks later, and he confirmed that he was going to reach out to the DSA. I then had some medical issues that meant that my

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[DPA] As far as I am aware, in none of these roles did he have any sustained or unsupervised access to children. To the extent that there were any junior members in the ringing group at [the church] this was managed by the [church role] [Name Redacted] (who was in charge of safeguarding in that context and was aware of [AN-F66]'s background). If he was ringing elsewhere – as he sometimes did - he was always accompanied by his wife, and my understanding is that each tower would have had their own risk assessment and safeguarding policies in place.

DBS checks

15. As I note above, I am not aware of the specific reason why [AN-F66] did not have a DBS check in place until my conversation with [the PSO] in March 2017. However, I should reiterate that I was never aware of the parish actively ensuring that [AN-F66] could avoid a DBS check. Essentially, [AN-F66] had, of his own accord and without the parish having any involvement in this, generally avoided putting himself forward for any roles where a DBS check would be necessary.
16. I knew that [AN-F66] used to be a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for several years, and indeed, was a member when I assumed responsibility for [the church]. The PCC had agreed in 2016 that all PCC and District Church Council (DCC) members should undergo safeguarding training and receive their DBS clearances. In [date], [AN-F66] refused to stand again for election to the PCC – my understanding at the time that this was because he did not want the hassle of a DBS check.

Actions taken

17. On realising that there may be implications from a Safer Recruitment perspective, the first step taken at a parish level was to reach out to the ADSA. This was as a result of the conversation I had with [the PSO] in March 2017, although as I note at paragraph 12, it was some time before the conversation with the ADSA actually took place. This was followed by detailed phone calls (see ACE026439) as well as a face to face meeting with [AN-F66], his wife, the ADSA, and [the

[redacted]