**CHILD PROTECTION REPORT 2019**

**Overview:**

I believe that around 30 BKA members are currently covered by DBS or PVG (Disclosure Scotland) checks;

both through the BKA’s ‘umbrella’ organisation DDC Ltd, other organisations such as local councils. In the last year I have processed 13 applications.

Since the BKA has fewer than 100 renewals per year, it is obliged by the DBS to use an ‘umbrella body’- in our case, we are already using DDC Ltd. There are advantages to using an umbrella body in any event- secure handling of documents, up-to-date database (although it doesn’t have up to date membership information) and help/guidance when needed.

**Updates and issues:**

1. **Online updating:**

Where members have completed a DBS check they can complete the online subscription. This ***must*** be done by the individual member within 30 days of the date of the issue of the certificate. For volunteers it is free. It should be renewable by logging onto the DBS website, the renewal is also free for volunteers and I understand that there is an option for automatic renewal now.

The PVG scheme in Scotland automatically updates, i.e. should a new offence be committed by someone who has applied to it via DDC then DDC will be informed automatically.

I have previously not pushed coaches to pursue online updating of DBS certificates because I am aware that many halls and schools require a ‘paper’ certificate to be produced and may not necessary accept an online update. I would like online updating to be considered again by my successor, in cases where a paper certificate is not needed. It would save money for the Association since effectively checks subsequent to the initial check and registration are free; ID isn’t required after the initial check, and other organisations certificates can be checked (but need ID checks the 1st time).

1. **Database:**

I haven’t had access to the membership database but understand that a new coaching database may be set up which will allow coaches and the CPO to access certificate information and I feel that this would be a step forward.

1. **Paying for DBS checks**

The NC decided in March 2019 that it will pay for up to 2 DBS /PVG applications per dojo, depending on what is necessary to cover the dojo needs for cleared coaches.

1. **Complaints**: there have been no article 13 complaints involving child protection issues this year so far as I am aware.
2. **Social media guidance**: some guidelines for coaches etc on social media interaction with juniors were submitted to the NC in March by myself and the EDI officer and were not adopted. I hope that the BKA can look at this issue again maybe as ‘informal advice’ for dojo leaders etc.

Finally, I am stepping down from this post following the AGM for personal reasons.

Lesley Drewe

June 2019.