

POVA – The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Scheme in England and Wales for Care Homes and Domiciliary Agencies

The POVA list is a list of people who are banned from working in a care position in a registered care home (whether employed by the home or an agency), or with a domiciliary care agency. It is a criminal offence for someone on the list to apply for this type of work.

Providers cannot employ people either provisionally listed or confirmed on the POVA list.

Since July 26 2004 there has been a statutory duty for providers to refer care workers that fit the criteria, to the Secretary of State for possible inclusion on the list. In some circumstances CQC can make referrals.

The criteria for a care worker to be referred to POVA are where the provider believes the care worker has been guilty of misconduct which harmed or placed at risk of harm a vulnerable adult.

It is essential that reference be made to the full information if such a referral is being made. The application form, practical guide and additional guidance on making referrals can be found on the Department of Health website www.dh.gov.uk

Any instance where a worker is likely to be referred to POVA should have been referred to the local Safeguarding Adults process.

Safeguarding Adults Teams can offer advice and information as can the POVA team based in Darlington. Their contact details are:

Email: POVA.mail@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Advice line: 01325 391328