

## **CFA Handbooks – Safeguarding Children information**

### **The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy Statement**

Every child or young person, defined as any person under the age of 18, who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football, thus every club is required to endorse and adhere to The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy.

The FA recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The FA is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children and young people to participate in the sport to the best of their abilities for as long as they choose to do so. The Associations Safeguarding Children Policy principles are that:

- the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents and carers is essential.

The FA is committed to working in partnership with the Police, Social Services Departments, and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) in accordance with their procedures. This is essential to enable these organisations to carry out their statutory duties to investigate concerns and protect all children and young people.

The Associations Safeguarding Children Policy is in response to government legislation developed to safeguard the welfare and development of children and young people.

### **Whistle-blowing**

The FA has an explicit Whistle Blowing Policy; this is 'an early warning system.' It is about revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation or within an independent structure associated with it.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can also use "whistle-blowing" by contacting The FA Case Management Team on 0207 745 4787. Alternatively you can go direct to Children's Services, the Police or the NSPCC and report your concerns there.

### **Appointing Welfare Officers in youth clubs and youth leagues**

The FA is continuing to encourage both youth clubs and youth leagues to appoint welfare officers. This will help to ensure that:

- junior and youth clubs have a named point of contact who can ensure that people understand what their responsibilities are when working with children and young people
- junior and youth clubs and leagues comply with their moral and legal requirements, in line with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, to be implemented in 2008
- responsible recruitment processes are in place, so that junior and youth clubs and leagues can comply with their requirements to ensure that those in relevant roles undertake a CRB check<sup>1</sup>
- more people are aware of the need to attend The FA's Safeguarding Children workshop
- children and young people are empowered and involved in decision making in clubs

For more information about how to appoint a welfare officer and what this role involves go to [www.TheFA.com/SafeguardingChildren](http://www.TheFA.com/SafeguardingChildren) or speak with your CFA CPO

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<sup>1</sup> Those people in roles which bring them in to direct contact with children, give them influence over policy that affects youth football, or which places them in regulated settings. The completion of this process must be in line with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, which is due for implementation from September 2008