



## Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation

### Safeguarding Children Policy 2017

Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any activity organised and delivered by the Foundation. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief
- 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/carers is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in our football or other activities should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our organisation.
- Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means all employees and volunteers acting on behalf of the Foundation.
- We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting employees and volunteers and we will:
  - specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
  - request identification documents
  - interview people before appointing them
  - ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone
  - where eligible require an FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations.
- All current Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation employees and volunteers working in eligible roles, with children and young people will be required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice`.
- If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the CRC Process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.
- It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.



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1. Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation supports The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com) or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.
2. Stockport County Community Sports & Education Foundation has appointed a Welfare Officer who has completed the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. The Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all staff, children and young people, and parents regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of **Respect**, poor practice and abuse amongst staff.
3. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in our organisation. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Welfare Officer in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.
4. Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns – no action is not an option.**
  - i. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Welfare Officer.
  - ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the Welfare Officer will either:
    - . deal with the matter themselves or
    - . seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer
  - iii. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contacts the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
  - iv. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.
  - v. If at any time you are not able to contact your Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
    - . contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly
    - . contact The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)
    - . contact the Police or Children's Social Care
    - . the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)