



## Safeguarding Policy

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It is intended to create within the Club an environment where children are safe from abuse and any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to, in order to achieve this we will: -

### 1. Exclude known abusers

- 1.1. All applicants for posts within the Club will be informed that any position is exempt from provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 2014
- 1.2. All applicants will be interviewed by the Chairman, Club Secretary and one Committee member and asked to provide two referees
- 1.3. All applicants will be required to agree to complete a self-declaration form and will be subject to a probationary period of three months

### 2. Prevent abuse by means of good practice

- 2.1. Adults will not be left alone for long periods with individual children or with small groups. Any adult who needs to take a child aside will ensure their location is known and, in sight of another adult.

### 3. Respond appropriately to suspicions of abuse

- 3.1. Changes in children's behaviour/appearance will be investigated/reported to the Welfare Officer
- 3.2. Parents will normally be the first point of reference, though suspicions will also be referred as appropriate to the Social Services Department
- 3.3. All such suspicions and investigations will be kept confidential, shared only with those who need to know
- 3.4. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration and all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. The relevant authorities namely the Social Services Department, Area Safeguarding Committee and the Police will be informed as and where necessary in accordance with their procedures. (See The Football Associations Safeguarding Policy and Booklet)

### 4. Welfare Officer (Debbie Tipton 07804281090)

- 4.1. All Club members are made aware of the name and telephone number of the Welfare Officer and her availability. If a child does not wish to speak to the Welfare Officer every effort will be made to encourage the child to speak to another Club Official or a member of Social Services.