

Weysiders Football Club

Child Safeguarding Policy

As part of our safeguarding policy Weysiders FC will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with safeguarding training to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support is provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the recruitment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure everyone associated to Weysiders FC are treated fairly and reasonably in all circumstances and if subject to an allegation, will be supported and the principals of natural justice applied;
- Promote ethics and high standards throughout our football club

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved at Weysiders FC. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in exclusion from the football club.

The key principles underpinning this 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, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

It is important to remember that the definition of children includes young people up to the age of 18 and the needs of older children and young people up to the age of 18 are covered by these procedures and their safety must be paramount at all times.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015 sets out definitions and examples of the four broad categories of abuse which are used as a basis for determining that a child should be subject to a Child Protection Plan:

- Neglect;
- Physical abuse;
- Sexual abuse and exploitation;
- Emotional abuse.

These categories overlap, and an abused child does frequently suffer more than one type of abuse.

Other types of abuse recognised nationally are:

- Financial/ Material
- Abuse of Rights/ Discriminatory/ Racial
- Institutional
- Professional Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Honour Based Violence (HBV)

Signs of Abuse

- Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding to genital area
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking
- Unexplained sources of money
- Inappropriate sexual drawings / language / behaviour
- Aggressive, withdrawn or fear of one person
- Unexplained or untreated injuries
- Injuries on unlikely or unusual parts of the body
- Cigarette burns, bites or belt marks, scalds
- Fear of parents being contacted, going home or receiving medical advice
- Flinching when touched
- Refusal to discuss injury
- Covering arms or legs
- Poor personal hygiene
- Constantly hungry
- Inappropriate clothing or dress
- Constantly tired
- Lonely, no friends
- Under weight or overweight

- No parental support or interest
- Dishevelled appearance
- Over Reaction to mistakes
- Sudden speech disorders
- Extremes of emotions
- Self-mutilation

There may not be any signs you may just feel that something is wrong. If you are worried, it is not your responsibility to decide if it is abuse, but it is your responsibility to act on your concerns.

What to do if a child/young person discloses abuse

- Understand that this may be the only time the child has built up courage to tell someone what has happened
- Stop what you are doing and respect the child's privacy
- Stay calm and re-assuring
- Listen to what they tell you, tell them that whatever the circumstances they are not to blame
- Do not react in a way that may add to the child's distress e.g. anger or shock
- Explain that you cannot promise to keep what the child tells you a secret, you may have to tell someone else
- Do not question the child in depth, do not ask leading questions, i.e. questions that need a "yes" or "no" answer
- Only ask questions to establish exactly what was done and who did it
- Tell the child that you are pleased they decided to tell someone and that they are absolutely right to do so
- Let the child know that you understand how difficult it is to talk about such experiences
- Inform the Team Manager (unless implicated)
- Contact the Weysiders Football Club Child Protection Officer without delay (**DSO**) – safeguard@weysidersfc.co.uk
- Do not contact parents until you have received advice
- Make an accurate record of the time and date and exactly what was said

Conclusion

Weysiders Football Club, through this policy has highlighted its determination to ensure that children and young people can participate in all forms of football activity and do so with their safety being of paramount importance. It is essential that this document is representative of a process of continual improvement in the area of child protection within football. It is for all adults engaged in football activities to promote good practice and procedures, whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities towards the children and young people in their care.

Definitions – Key Terms

Allegation: An allegation made by anyone, child or adult, where this is or believed to be a risk of harm to a child

Child/Children and Young Person/People: These terms are interchangeable and refer to children who have not yet reached their 18th birthday.

Duty of Care: The duty which rests upon an individual and Weysiders FC to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of a child or young person involved in any activity or interaction for which that individual or Weysiders FC is responsible. Any person in charge of or working with children and young people in any capacity is considered, both legally and morally to owe them a duty of care.

Parent: An adult with parental responsibility

Safeguarding: Process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully (see 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006, HM Government (WT 2006)

Welfare: Well-being in relation to the 5 outcomes defined in the Children Act 2004; stay safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and economic well-being

Date reviewed: January 2019

Date approved by Committee:

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