



# Safeguarding Policy

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## Introduction

### Purpose

Lancashire Cricket Club is committed to ensuring everyone participating in cricket, have a safe and positive experience. Lancashire Cricket Club agree and abide by the [ECB Safe Hands Policy](#).

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who encounters children, adults at risk and their families have a role to play. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all staff will ensure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, always, what is in the best interests of the child, and adult at risk (with their consent if applicable). Lancashire Cricket Club will ensure they facilitate a whole team approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development.

Staff working with children should have an attitude of 'it could happen here.' All systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of participants and staff. Where there is a safeguarding concern, Lancashire Cricket Club will ensure the child or adult at risk's wishes and feelings are considered when determining what action to take and what services to provide.

Systems are in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Lancashire Cricket Club is committed to ensuring everyone participating in cricket, have a safe and positive experience.

We will do this by:

Recognising everyone participating in cricket regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability, have a right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment.

Ensuring individuals working within cricket at, or for, Lancashire Cricket Club provide a safe, positive and fun cricketing experience for children.

Adopting and implementing the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children" and any future versions of the Safeguarding training.

Our Club Safeguarding Manager will attend all current and future Safeguarding training modules required by the ECB, so they have the necessary skills to carry out the role effectively.



Providing the Club with the training required by the ECB, so they have the necessary skills to undertake their roles effectively. Ensuring all people who work in cricket at, or for, Lancashire Cricket Club (such as staff, officials, volunteers, team managers, coaches etc) have attended and understand the Safeguarding Level 1 Induction Training, Safeguarding Level 2 online course and the Safe Hands Course applies to them according to their level of contact with people in cricket.

Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at, or for, Lancashire Cricket Club, are recruited via the safer recruitment policy and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines and relevant legislation.

Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at, or for, Lancashire Cricket Club are provided with support, through education and training, so they are aware of, and can adhere to good practice and code of conduct guidelines defined by the ECB, and Lancashire Cricket Club.

Ensuring the name and contact details of the Clubs Safeguarding Manager is available as:

- The first point of contact for Lancashire Cricket Club staff and volunteers
- The first point of contact for parents and children of the County Age Group
- The first point of contact for competitions and events
- The main point of contact within Lancashire Cricket Club for the ECB Child Protection Team
- The main point of contact within Lancashire Cricket Club for relevant external agencies in connection with child protection and safeguarding

Ensuring correct and comprehensive reporting procedures are followed for raising and managing safeguarding concerns. These procedures recognise the responsibility of the statutory agencies and are in accordance with predefined safeguarding procedures as set down by the ECB, Statutory Agencies and Local Safeguarding Children Foundation (LSCB) guidelines and policies.

Providing everyone connected with Lancashire Cricket Club, with the opportunity to voice any concerns they have about possible suspected risk of harm, and/or about poor practice, to the Clubs Safeguarding Manager. Ensuring all suspicions, concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with effectively.

Ensuring access to confidential information relating to child safeguarding matters is restricted to the Clubs Safeguarding Manager and the appropriate external authorities, such as Children's Social Care, Police, and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), as specified within ECB child safeguarding procedures.

Although the majority of participants have a fulfilling experience in sport, some people may experience abuse and/or poor practice linked to their participation. While experience of harm occurs at every level of sport, research shows that vulnerability to abuse and poor practice can increase as athletes make progress through the competitive field.

It is vital that anyone involved in sports provision is alert to:

- Possible indicators of abuse and neglect



- Risks that individual abusers or potential abusers, may pose to children and adults at risk
- Understanding their role and actions they must take

At all Lancashire Cricket Clubs events, a safeguarding & welfare plan will be written that shows how this policy is translated into practical action specifically for that event or context. Safeguarding & welfare plans will show how every aspect of the plan will be implemented. All staff/volunteers/participants will be required to read the plan carefully and fulfil their respective responsibilities.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (formerly LSCBs), UK Sport and the CPSU
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

## **Document Control**

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## **Scope**

This policy applies to all individuals associated with Lancashire Cricket Club, including but not limited to:

- All employees, whether permanent, temporary, or casual
- Volunteers and contractors working on behalf of the organisation
- Coaches, officials, and support staff
- Players and participants in any programs, teams, or events organised by the organisation
- Third-party service providers engaged by the organisation

This policy is binding on all individuals regardless of their role, status, or location when representing or participating in activities related to Lancashire Cricket Club.

## **Safer Recruitment**

Lancashire Cricket Club is committed to safer recruitment processes and ongoing safer working practices.

Members of staff, including part-time staff and temporary staff are subject to the necessary statutory checks before starting work, for example:

- right to work checks
- additional overseas checks (when necessary)
- verifying identity
- taking up references
- checking work history and confirming medical fitness for the role

For most appointments, an enhanced DBS check will be appropriate. Under no circumstances will an individual commence work unsupervised in sole charge of, or in unaccompanied contact with, children or adults at risk without a cleared DBS check. Lancashire Cricket Club may complete a written Risk Assessment exercise in relation to the proposed work. All other safeguarding checks will be completed, and the individual will be appropriately supervised.

Each member of staff will receive an induction into the Club, beginning with the Safeguarding Induction Training conducted by the Clubs Safeguarding Manager.

## **Training**

Induction and training (including online safety, which amongst other things includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities).

All staff will be provided with induction training that includes:

- Safeguarding and child protection, including online safety
- the child protection policy, including information about the identity and role of the Clubs Safeguarding Manager
- the staff code of conduct including the whistleblowing procedure and the acceptable use of technologies policy, communications including the use of social media
- Receive training in safeguarding and child protection, in line with the ECB training matrix. Training will include online safety and include Prevent awareness training to equip staff to raise concerns



appropriately by ensuring all staff have the knowledge and confidence to identify someone at risk of being drawn into terrorism and know how to refer for further help.

- Undertake regular informal updates, at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children and adults at risk effectively
- Lancashire Cricket Club Board members must receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in are effective and support the delivery of a robust approach to safeguarding.

### **Staff behaviour/code of conduct**

The aim of the code of conduct is to provide clear guidance about behaviour, actions, and responses to concerns in order not to place participants or staff at risk of harm or of allegation of harm to a children and adults at risk.

### **Safeguarding Concerns and allegations made about staff, including casual staff, volunteers and contractors.**

If an allegation is made against anyone working with children or adults at risks within cricket, Lancashire Cricket Club should not undertake their own investigation of allegations without prior consultation with the Local Authority 'designated officer' (LADO) or, in the most serious cases, the Police, so as not to jeopardise statutory investigations. In borderline cases, Lancashire Cricket Club may discuss informally with the Local Authority 'designated officer' (LADO) on a no names basis. All allegations should be investigated as a priority to avoid any delay.

All concerns and allegations will be referred to the ECB Safeguarding Cricket Regulator.

### **Allegations that may meet the harms threshold**

All allegations which appear to meet the above reporting criteria are to be reported straight away to the Executive Director. Where the Executive Director is absent or is the subject of the allegation or concern, reports should be made to Chair of Lancashire Cricket Club Board, Board Safeguarding Lead and Clubs Safeguarding Manager.

Where the Executive Director is the subject of the allegation or concern, the Executive Director must not be informed of the allegation prior to contact with the Lancashire Cricket Clubs Board Chairperson, Clubs Safeguarding Manager, ECB Safeguarding Cricket Regulator and LADO, and if appropriate, children's social care and the police.

For all other cases, where the allegation concluded to be either, unfounded, false, malicious, or unsubstantiated the Executive Director (and if they have been involved) should consider the facts and determine whether any lessons can be learned and if improvements can be made.



### **Reporting concerns**

All staff should be aware that children or adults at risk may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, they may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. This should not prevent staff from having a professional curiosity and speaking to the Clubs safeguarding Manager if they have concerns about a child or adult at risk.

If staff suspect or hear an allegation or concern of abuse, neglect, or exploitation from a child or any third party, they must follow the relevant procedure below:

- listen carefully
- avoid asking leading questions
- reassure the individual that the allegation/complaint will be taken seriously.
- not guarantee absolute confidentiality (as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child) and explain to the child that staff will only share the information with those who need to know to help the child.

All staff should explain next steps and who the information will be passed to:

- a victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment, nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report
- all concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely Records should include.
- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome
- the date, time and place of the conversation and detail of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence and signed by the person making it.

Where a report includes online elements or the sharing of images, staff are reminded not to view or forward any illegal images of a child but note what has been reported non-recent abuse (also known as historical abuse) is an allegation of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse made by or on behalf of someone who is now 18 years or over, relating to an incident which took place when the alleged victim was under 18 years old. All allegations of non-recent abuse should be reported to the statutory authorities; you should follow the procedures given above and report to the police and/or Local Authority Children's Social Care Services and the Clubs Safeguarding Manager. This is because other children, either within Cricket or outside it, may be at risk from the offender.

When receiving information about non-recent historic abuse, staff or volunteers should seek to obtain where possible the following:



- Name and contact details of the person making the allegation, taking into account if the individual wishes to remain anonymous
- Name of the individual who the allegation is about and any other identifying information, including location
- Name of any children or other alleged victims involved
- Date and time of when the abuse occurred
- Key information about the nature of the non-recent historic abuse allegation
- Establish, where possible, if the alleged perpetrator is still working with or caring for children
- Establish whether or not other agencies are involved.

All concerns must be reported using the Lancashire Cricket Club concerns form: [Clue Webform](#)

The term low level does not minimise the concern. Please see the ECB guidance on low level concerns [Low-Level-Concerns-Guidance-Clubs.pdf](#).

### **Information sharing**

Information may be shared by Lancashire Cricket Club with a third party (such as the ECB, police or local authority) without consent if there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where doing so, is in order to promote a child's or adult at risk's welfare or where their safety may be at risk. This is because the Data Protection Act 2018 includes 'safeguarding children and individuals at risk' as a condition that allows information to be shared without consent in certain circumstances. Any decision to share or withhold information will be recorded together with the reasons for it and who the information has been given to.

Lancashire Cricket Club operates its processes with the best interests of the individual at its heart. Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and in promoting a person's welfare.

Lancashire Cricket Club will ensure staff comply with the relevant data protection principles when processing and sharing personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR.

As part of this, Lancashire Cricket Club will ensure that staff:

- are confident of the processing conditions which allow them to process and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is 'special category personal data
- understand that 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows staff to share special category personal data without consent in certain circumstances
- Do not provide personal data where the sharing does not comply with data protection law.

When sharing information staff will ensure they comply with Lancashire Cricket Clubs data protection policies and keep records of disclosures as required by these policies.

### **What staff should do if they have concerns about safeguarding practices**

Where staff have concerns about poor or unsafe practices and potential failures in Lancashire Cricket Club's safeguarding regimes, these should be raised in accordance with the Lancashire Cricket Clubs whistleblowing



procedures. If staff and volunteers feel unable to raise an issue with Lancashire Cricket Club, feel that their genuine concerns are not being (or have not been) addressed or are concerned about the way a concern is being handled, they may use other whistleblowing channels, such as the EDB Safeguarding Cricket Regulator [safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk).

### **Support following a disclosure**

Following a disclosure and/or investigation, consideration should be given to support that children or adults at risk, parents and staff may need.

Consideration should also be given to what kind of support may be appropriate for the alleged perpetrator. Whilst the investigation is on-going the alleged perpetrator will be given the detail of the process to be followed, and Lancashire Club will provide details of a single point of contact within the organisation.

They can also be directed towards The Samaritans who provide 24-hour confidential support: 08457 90 9090 [www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

### **Complaints & Disciplinary Procedures**

Lancashire Cricket Club has its own complaints & disciplinary procedure for dealing with breaches of the Safeguarding Policy and procedures.

- If the reported concern is alleged to have arisen during the course of a person's employment or deployment by Lancashire Cricket Club, they will be subject to the Lancashire Cricket Clubs complaints procedures and sanctions stated in its staff handbook. Following any investigations this may lead to disciplinary process being instituted. If the person is employed by a partner organisation the Lancashire Cricket Club may decide to await the outcome of the employers' procedures before starting its own investigation
- If a case is being investigated by a statutory agency, Lancashire Cricket Club may suspend/deselect the individual concerned whilst this investigation is taking place. This is a neutral act and is not intended to prejudge the outcome of the investigation, but simply to remove the individual from contact with children until the investigation is concluded. Once the statutory agency's investigation is complete, Lancashire Cricket Club's decision will be informed by the findings, and it will assess the case following its own disciplinary procedures.
- The Clubs Safeguarding Manager and the ECB Safeguarding Cricket Regulator will provide advice and guidance to Lancashire Cricket Club, liaising with the police and other agencies and monitoring the progress to ensure that the case is dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process. The Clubs Safeguarding Manager should also be informed within one working day of all allegations that come to Lancashire Cricket Club attention or that are made directly to the police.
- Irrespective of the findings of any Children's Social Care or Police inquiries, the ECB Safeguarding Cricket Regulator will assess all individual cases to decide whether a member of staff, volunteer or athlete should be reinstated and how this can be sensitively managed. This may be a difficult decision; particularly where there is insufficient evidence to uphold any action by the police. In such cases, the ECB Cricket Regulator will refer the case to the Safeguarding Panel, who must reach a decision based upon the available information which could suggest that on a balance of probability, it is more likely



than not that the allegation is true. The welfare of the child(ren) and adults at risk must remain of paramount importance throughout

- If the alleged perpetrator is a member of Lancashire Cricket Club, it fully expects that the ECB enact its own procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse, bullying and poor practice.

At all stages of this process Lancashire Cricket Club should be kept informed of the status of the investigation and the ECB's actions.

- Lancashire Cricket Club has a statutory responsibility to make a referral to the ECB where there have been allegations made against a member of staff or volunteer that have resulted in them being removed, or having resigned themselves, from their duties with vulnerable groups. The removal decision is based on actual or likely harm to children and young people, and adults at risk. In England this will be done in consultation with the Clubs Safeguarding Manager.
- Every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality for all concerned, and consideration will be given to what support may be appropriate to children, adults at risk, parents, members of staff and volunteers.
- It is not always possible to determine exact timescales for when cases will be resolved; however, Lancashire Cricket Club will try to ensure all parties know what procedure will be followed and what the expected time scales are. If there is a delay, they will endeavour to inform all parties why there is a delay and when any development is expected. There should not be any period without communication of more than 28 days with involved parties. Ideally processes should not extend over more than three months, only in exceptional circumstances should they extend up to six months.

### **Contextual Safeguarding**

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the cricket/sport and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the Clubs Safeguarding Manager, should consider whether children and adult at risk are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families.

Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

### **Using other premises**

When Lancashire Cricket Club use school, college, leisure centre facilities for example they may receive an allegation relating to an incident that happened when using these premises for the purposes of running activities for children. As with any safeguarding allegation, Lancashire Cricket Club will share the information with the schools or college DSL, allowing them to follow their safeguarding policies and procedures.

### **Transport**

Staff are not permitted to transport children under the age of 18 years unaccompanied and without prior consent from the Clubs Safeguarding Manager and parents/legal guardian of the child(ren). If transporting



children has been discussed and agreed with consent obtained as part of the event or camp the following point will be considered:

- Vehicle type (public transport, minibus, coach, private car)
- Competency of the driver
- Accessibility
- Length of journey
- Distance
- Stopping points
- Supervision during journey
- Seat belts

### **Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing**

Lancashire Cricket Club are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child or adult at risk has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences (ACES), this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, development, and engagement. If staff have a mental health & emotional wellbeing concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken.

### **Social Media & Electronic Devices**

This section sets out how Lancashire Cricket Club uses the internet and social media, and the procedures for doing so. It also outlines how we expect staff, coaches, volunteers, players, and parents/legal guardians, to conduct themselves.

These principles apply no matter which current or future technology is used.

#### **We recognise that:**

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children safe online
- working in partnership with children, their parents, legal guardian, and other organisations is essential in helping them to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

#### **We will seek to keep children safe by:**

- understanding the safety aspects, including what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour for staff, coaches, volunteers, and children, when using website, social media, apps, and other forms of digital communication
- being aware that it does not matter what device is being used for digital interaction, but that the same safety aspects apply whether it is a computer, mobile phone, or game console



- when using social media platforms, ensure that we adhere to relevant legislation and good practice
- ensuring the person managing our organisation's online presence is suitably trained and experienced

### **Managing our online presence**

Our online presence through our website or social media platforms will adhere to the following guidelines:

- all social media accounts will be password-protected, and at least two members of staff and/or volunteers will have access to each account and password
- social media accounts will be monitored by a designated person
- the designated person managing our online presence will seek advice from our Clubs Safeguarding Manager and the ECB to advise on safeguarding requirements as required
- the designated person will remove any inappropriate posts, explaining why, and informing anyone who may be affected (as well as the parents of any children involved)
- account, page and event settings will be set to 'private' so that only those invited can see their content
- social media pages/groups (e.g. Facebook pages/groups) used to communicate with children must be an organisation, community or sports group and not personal
- identifying details such as home address, school details, telephone number or email will not be posted on social media platforms
- any posts or correspondence will be of a professional purpose
- we will ensure children are aware of who manages our social media accounts and who to contact if they have any concerns about the running of the account
- parents will be asked to give their consent for us to communicate with their children through social media, or by any other means of communication
- parents will need to give consent for photographs or videos of their child to be posted on social media
- our accounts and email addresses will be appropriate, fit for purpose, and only used for Lancashire Cricket Club specific activities.

### **Expectations of staff, coaches, and volunteers:**

- read and agreed to the policy and behave in accordance with it
- they should seek the advice from our Clubs Safeguarding Manager and the ECB if they have any concerns about the use of the internet or social media
- any messages they wish to send out to children must be sent through the designated person responsible for the organisation's online presence, thus allowing the parent to be copied into the message
- they must not 'friend' or 'follow' children from personal accounts on social media
- they must make sure any content posted is accurate and appropriate
- they must not communicate with children via personal accounts or private messages
- they must communicate with parents through email or in writing, or use an organisational account, profile, or website rather than via personal social media accounts
- they must copy in parents or at least one other member of staff, coach or volunteer should to any communications sent to children



- they must avoid communication with children beyond dedicated event or activity timings, unless it is necessary for professional purposes (i.e. emergencies, whilst on a trip, etc.) and contacting the parents is not possible.

**Useful contact details and links:**

Lancashire Cricket Club Safeguarding Manager

sdenham@lancashirecricket.co.uk  
[safeguarding@lancashirecricket.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@lancashirecricket.co.uk)

Lancashire Cricket Club Safeguarding Concern referral form [Clue Webform](#)

CLUE Help Centre

[Clue Help Centre](#)

ECB Safeguarding Cricket Regulator

[safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk)

ECB Training Matix Safeguarding

[Training-Matrix.pdf](#)

EDI

[equality@lancashirecricket.co.uk](mailto:equality@lancashirecricket.co.uk)



## **Appendix 1 – Further Information**

All staff should be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect, as well as specific safeguarding issues such as child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. Staff should always be vigilant, and if unsure, should always speak to the Clubs Safeguarding Manager.

All staff should be aware that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. They can occur from within or outside families, in or out of cricket, from other children within peer groups or the wider community and/or online. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another, and children can therefore be vulnerable to multiple threats. All staff should be aware that behaviours linked to drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, unexplainable and/or consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk.

**Physical abuse:** A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or legal guardian fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional abuse:** The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only as far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

**Sexual abuse:** Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect:** The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a



result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or legal guardian failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

**Specific safeguarding issues:** Behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sexting put children in danger. Safeguarding issues can also manifest themselves via child-on-child abuse, such as bullying (including cyberbullying), gender-based violence/sexual assaults and sexting. Safeguarding issues can also be linked to, for example, children missing from home; child sexual exploitation; domestic abuse; fabricated or induced illness; faith abuse; female genital mutilation; forced marriage; gangs and youth violence; gender-based violence / violence against women and girls; hate; mental health; preventing radicalisation; relationship abuse; sexting; and trafficking.

**Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitations (CSE):** Are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female, and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual, and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online.

#### **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**

Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting, or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others. Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to. It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same,



however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** CSE is a form of sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact: it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex; can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual; can include both contact (penetrative e.g. rape and oral sex and non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside clothing) and non-contact sexual activity (such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet. It can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both; can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence; may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media); can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Some of the following signs may be indicators of sexual exploitation:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation
- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education

CSE is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of drugs trafficking. The Clubs Safeguarding Manager will consider a referral to the National Referral Mechanism as soon as possible if there are county line concerns, such as a child being a potential victim of modern slavery or human trafficking.



All staff should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include:

- increased absence from sessions
- a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups
- a significant decline in performance
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing
- signs of assault or unexplained injuries
- unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

All staff should be aware of the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

**County lines** **County lines:** Is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line.” Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence), and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network. One of the ways of identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered. If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation. So called ‘Honour Based’ Abuse: Encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including [Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)], forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. It can include multiple perpetrators. (FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. Guidance on the warning signs that FGM may be about to take place or may have already taken place). If staff have a concern that a participant may be at risk of HBA or has suffered HBA, they should speak to the Clubs Safeguarding Manager.

**Forced Marriage:** Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or



where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage.

**Radicalisation:** Refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. There is no single way of identifying whether a person is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a person's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the Clubs Safeguarding Manager making a Prevent referral.