Premier League

“Safeguarding Football”
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

What is CEOP?

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre is dedicated to eradicating the sexual abuse of children. The CEOP Centre is part of UK policing and very much about tracking and bringing offenders to account either directly or in partnership with local and international forces.

For information and download of the CEOP Facebook App, click on the icon below.
Staff safeguard through Best Practice

Organisations respond with Policies and procedures

Government Guidance

UK Law

- UK Parliament
- The FA, The PL, Clubs (Section S)
- Government departments responsible for Education, Social Care, Justice, Digital, Culture, Media, Sport
- Club staff - Coaches, Tutors, Support Staff
Safeguarding - DUTY OF CARE – Prevent Harm – The Law

Children – Under 18’s

Duty of Care

Clubs & Organisations

Staff
Underpinning Values.....

- **Safeguarding the welfare and well-being of children is paramount**
- **Everyone shares a responsibility in safeguarding children**
- **Children should be treated with respect and listened to**
- **Staff must act on a suspicion or disclosure – a child is at risk of harm**
- **Follow the Club’s Safeguarding policies and procedures.**
- **Clubs must fully support anyone who reports their concerns about safeguarding children**
Good Safeguarding

- Protects Children & Young People – being proactive
- Protects Staff – promotes Safer Working Practice
- Protects the Club or Organisation’s reputation
- Protects Football – Affiliated Football Rules – All levels
- Clear policies and procedures for dealing with concerns
- Prevention is better than cure!
Child Protection

- Everyone’s responsibility
- Prevents Harm
- Keeps children safe

Safeguarding

- Requires intervention by Professionals e.g. Police, Children Services

Child Protection

- Suffered harm
- Is at significant risk of suffering harm

Safeguarding v Child Protection
Safe Environments v Social Issues

Safe Environments

- Participation
- Fun
- Training
- Life Skills
- Education
- Qualifications
- Employment
- Belonging
- Food
- Drink
- Care

Social Issues

- Sexual Exploitation
- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Social Media
- Radicalisation
- Drink/Drugs
- Homeless
- Poverty
- Violence
- Criminality
- Special Needs
Safe Environments

- Suitably trained and qualified Club staff
- Working in Partnership with Authorities, Health, Education, Charities, Support networks
- Training
- Information Sharing
- Managing Risk
- Safer Working Practice
- Protocols for dealing with incidents, concerns and disclosures
Creating a Culture of Safeguarding

Duty of Care

Training and Education

Appropriate Venues (Security, Medical)

Recognising Poor Practice or Abuse

Safe Staff Recruitment

Supervision and Support for Staff / Participants

Risk assessment & Planning

Creating Safe Environments

Reporting Concerns

Emergency Planning and training

Professional Boundaries

Codes of conduct for Staff / Participants

Working Together

Premier League
Other Key Safeguarding Considerations

- Positions of Trust
- Lone working and one-to-one situations
- Physical contact
- Behaviour management
- Personal care
- Photography and video footage
- Access to inappropriate material
- Communication – Social Media – online risks
SAFEGUARDING Continuum

- BEST PRACTICE
- SAFEGUARDING RUNS THROUGHOUT

- POOR PRACTICE
- Investigated by Club / FA / Statutory Agencies

- ABUSE
- Investigated by Statutory Agencies
Poor Practice – May include:

- Failing to check equipment / environment for safety
- Inappropriate training methods for age or group
- No medical provision
- Aggressive / Inappropriate verbal communication e.g. swearing
- Inappropriate physical contact during training
- Poor supervision of participants
- Unsafe transportation
- Failing to report safeguarding concerns
- Failing to deal with an injury
CATEGORIES OF ABUSE – Serious Harm – defined by law

NEGLECT

PHYSICAL

EMOTIONAL

SEXUAL
POOR PRACTICE OR ABUSE?
YOU MUST TAKE ACTION!

RECOGNISE
RESPOND
REPORT
RECORD
Dealing with poor practice or abuse

- **Recognise** – what is poor practice or abuse
- **Respond** – Intervene / Challenge – Do NOT allow it to continue
- **Report** your concerns direct to the Police if you feel the child/young person at immediate risk of harm, or to your Safeguarding Officer or Head of Safeguarding
- Follow advice from your Designated Safeguarding Officer or the Club’s Head of Safeguarding
- **Record** – Make a full written record on the Club’s reporting instrument (very important)
PREMIER LEAGUE SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT AND AUDIT

• Focus on:

• The Elite Academy – “elite performing athletes were at higher risk of being sexually exploited” (Brackenridge et al 1997, 2010)

  “poor coach practice damaged the physical and emotional wellbeing of the young athlete” (Myers and Barrett 2002)

• Clubwide – matchday events / mascots / ballboys / stadium tours / family stands

• The Community Trust / Foundation – Vast engagement with children, some more vulnerable – linked to funding!

• Support Visits – e.g. training / project management / observations / Audit prep

• Independent Audit – 7 Defined Areas – football specific Standards based on legislation and Premier League Rule S
**Action Plan**
If it arose again what would you do?

**Description**
What happened?

**Feelings**
What were you thinking and feeling?

**Evaluation**
What was good and bad about the experience?

**Analysis**
What sense can you make of the situation

**Conclusion**
What else could you have done?

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**Action Plan & Reflective Practice**
Gibbs 1988
Questions?

Thank You