

# HELP KEEP OUR GAME SAFE



## SAFEGUARDING RESOURCE PACK

It's everyone's responsibility to make sure young people and adults at risk are safe while participating in football.

RESPECT

# Keeping Football Safe & Enjoyable



Every child or adult at risk who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football.

Our collective role is to create a fun and safe experience for children and adults at risk in football and where concerns come to light, whether they are about someone in football or the person's wider life, then to report these concerns to the appropriate authorities.



# What We Do To Keep You Safe

All club and league welfare officers have undertaken safeguarding and welfare workshops and have an enhanced DBS check

We work hard to make sure staff and volunteers continue to improve through an extensive and ongoing training programme



## Vetting and supervision

All staff and volunteers who work in a role that involves regular and direct contact with children or adults at risk are subject to a DBS criminal record check.

Criminal record checks are completed every three years and failure to comply will lead to a suspension



# Respect

Respect is an important value in life, not just football. Leading with Respect is important to Lancashire FA and we want to ensure that the match day environment is memorable for the right reasons. It's all about creating the best possible football experience. Across our county there are so many people who champion the behaviours of Respect (for example fairness, integrity, inclusion and sportsmanship) and can demonstrate how they have worked to make these behaviours a part of the game in their communities. We would like to unite the game in our county, by everyone championing Respect and coming together to positively impact others

## Players

Players are asked to sign a Code of Conduct to 'promise' to abide by a set of rules governing their behaviour as a player. Working together with the coach, captain and matchday referee, players have a major role to play to ensure a positive environment on the pitch – and off it. Players are asked to shake hands with the opposition and match officials pre- and post-match in a spirit of fair play.

## Referees

Referees need to work in partnership with the clubs they officiate, in particular with the captains on the pitch when managing player behaviour. Vitally, referees can provide post-match feedback regarding the behaviour of players, parents, coaches and other spectators, to help the clubs

## Parents

Parents have a big responsibility as part of the Respect programme. Respect is working to eradicate touchline abuse in football, and parents can play their part by agreeing to, and signing, their club's Code of Conduct. Parents also have a responsibility for their children's behaviour. The players will also be asked to sign a Code of Conduct, and parents can encourage their children to adhere to the players' code.

# Respect (Continued)

## Clubs

Clubs can sign up to and enforce Codes of Conduct for their players, coaches, parents and spectators, which will set the standard for behaviour throughout their club. It is important that clubs take action if codes are broken to send out a clear message that negative behaviour will not be tolerated.

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children and vulnerable people can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct.



## Coaches

Coaches have a hugely important role to play in Respect, as they are not only responsible for their own behaviour, but as role models they also influence that of their players and spectators too. On a matchday, coaches are expected to work with players, parents and other spectators to allow the referee to manage the game without being subjected to abuse. Coaches should not shout at their own players but instead allow them to learn independently.

# Welfare Officers



**All sports have a responsibility to ensure they provide a safe and fun environment for children and young people.** Through the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme, the government makes it very clear that sport has to put safeguards in place. Football, along with other sports believe the best way to do this is to appoint a Welfare Officer.

## What does a Welfare Officer do?

Welfare Officers have key roles: Be informed and aware of the league or club's responsibilities when running football activities for children and young people.

- Ensuring these responsibilities include developing best practice processes.
- Helping to make sure trips away are organised properly.
- Helping league and club personnel understand their 'duty of care' towards children and young people.
- Ensuring all relevant people complete The FA's 'Safeguarding Children' training programme.
- Compliance of FA DBS checks.

For more information on what is expected of sport in terms of safeguarding children, go to [www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk) or [www.everychildmatters.co.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.co.uk)

Football accepts it has a clear responsibility towards young people. Making sure everyone knows how to report concerns about a child's welfare is essential. Knowing how to deal with poor practice issues is also vital. Find out who your Welfare Officer is by contacting your club/league or Lancashire FA.



# Harm and Abuse



Everyone at Lancashire FA has a key role in keeping children and adults at risk safe and to help protect them from abuse or harm. If anyone fails to meet these expectations please let us know.

Types of abuse are identified below:

## Sexual

A child or vulnerable person is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact and can happen online. Sometimes they won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong, or they may be afraid to speak out

## Bullying

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else- such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone. It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt someone both physically and emotionally

## Neglect

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child or vulnerable person's basic needs. They may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. They may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm

## Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child or vulnerable person to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Someone can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know- for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age.

## Physical

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child or vulnerable person causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts. It isn't accidental – people who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them.

## Emotional

Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child or vulnerable person it's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a person's emotional health and development. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to belittle or humiliate someone, or isolating or ignoring them.

# Safeguarding Expectations

This sets out the expectation of how adults should behave around children and adults at risk and manage and mitigate the risk of harm to participants and report their concerns.

If you are a volunteer and a child, or adult at risk or parent discloses a concern please:

## Ask few questions

Let them talk, don't become an investigator, simply clarify what they have said.

## Stay Calm

It will help the immediate situation.

## Be patient

We will try to keep you informed when possible but be aware we must act in a way that protects all those involved

## Remove them from further harm

Get to a safe place: seek medical help if required.

## Make a note

Record in writing what has been said if you can, noting the facts and not your opinion. Sign and date it.

## Contact the Club/League or Lancashire FA Safeguarding Officers

If it is a serious concern, contact the police or children's services.

## Reassure

Take them seriously – they have done the right thing to tell someone and it's not their fault.

## Don't make promises 'not to tell'

If it is serious, you will have to tell someone who can help.



# Safeguarding Training

## Playmaker Course

The FA Playmaker supported by BT is our new, free online entry-level football course perfect for anyone interested in taking a more active role in grassroots football.

There are five modules in total and you don't need any previous football experience or qualifications before signing up.

In fact, all you need is an FA Number (FAN) and a laptop, tablet or mobile device. Then you're good to go

Link

<https://www.thefa.com/bootroom/learning/qualifications/the-fa-playmaker>

## The FA Safeguarding “FOR ALL”

This course is for everyone. It provides a basic overview of how to safeguard children and examines what we mean by: best practice, poor practice and abuse.

If you're under 18, it will also explain how to safeguard yourself.

To keep our guidance up to date, this course has a two-year expiry. We'll let you know when it's time to renew. Important: This course does not replace the online Safeguarding Children Recertification course.

Link

<https://falearning.thefa.com/course/view.php?id=1774>

# Sudden Cardiac Arrest



**The FA has launched a free online module to raise awareness and knowledge of sudden cardiac arrests in Football.**

The module will enable you to recognise and respond appropriately to a sudden cardiac arrest while also providing you with key facts and information.

Available online, you can complete it at a convenient time and place. Plus, it only takes one hour!

Upon completion, you'll receive one hour of CPD and an FA certificate.

Research shows that 12 young people lose a life each week in the UK and those with an inherited heart condition can be up to three times as likely to suffer a sudden cardiac arrest if they participate in intensive activity. What's more, at least five fatalities occurred during football matches or training over the last year in England due to cardiac arrest, including former England international Ugo Ehiogu, who died whilst working as coach at Tottenham Hotspur FC.

# Sudden Cardiac Arrest Continued

Dr Lisa Hodgson, The FA's medical education lead, said: "The FA is passionate about raising the awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and highlighting the fact that this can occur in what appears to essentially be, from the outside, a fit and healthy young person playing sport. Sudden cardiac arrest is infrequent but it is not a rare event."

"The more awareness we can raise on this issue, the greater is the chance of early recognition and lifesaving intervention being performed."

"We would like as many people as possible to complete this module and to share it among their peers."

"Everyone should be taught these lifesaving skills in all walks of life, not just in sport and we hope that this module helps to do just that."

To access the course use the below link:

<https://falearning.thefa.com/enrol/index.php?id=42>





# Lancashire FA Safeguarding and Well-being Department



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**Lancashire County FA covers a number of Local Authority areas together three with Police forces.  
Listed below are contact details for agencies who should be able to assist with early intervention for  
both Adult and Children safeguarding issues**

Blackburn with Darwen safeguarding board.

Email: [lscbinfo@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:lscbinfo@blackburn.gov.uk)

Tele: **Tel:** 01254 58 89 55

Bolton Safeguarding Children Board

[Tel: 01204 337479](tel:01204337479)

Web:

<https://www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/>

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Web: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

Childline: 0800 1111

Web <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Blackpool safeguarding board

If you are sending a safeguarding referral / alert about a child, please send this direct to [duty.assessment@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:duty.assessment@blackpool.gov.uk) / 01253 477299.

Wigan Safeguarding Board

Web:

<https://www.wiganlscb.com/home.aspx>

Lancashire Safeguarding children's board

Tel: 0300 123 6720 or out of hours 0300 123 6722 (5pm - 8am)

Web: <http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/>

Lancashire safeguarding adults board:

Worried About An Adult? Telephone:

0300 123 6720 or between 5pm - 8am on 0300 123 6722

Web: <http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/lancashire-safeguarding-adults.aspx>