

Safeguarding

Definition of Safeguarding:

"Safeguarding adults, children and young people is everyone's responsibility"

It is crucial that committee, officials, volunteers and employees in community and voluntary groups know what to do if they are concerned about a child, young person or adult at risk, whether or not it is happening within the community.

England Deaf Football (EDF) believes in protecting an child, young person and adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of England Deaf Football in working together in promoting the everyone's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.

Key Principles of Safeguarding:

In the safeguarding of adults, England Deaf Football are guided by the six key principles set out in The Care Act 2014 and Making Safeguarding Personal.

England Deaf Football aims to demonstrate and promote these six principles in our work: -

- Empowerment – People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention – It is better to take action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need.
- Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Types of Abuse:

The Care Act defines the following eleven areas of abuse. These are not exhaustive but are a guide to behaviour that may lead to a safeguarding enquiry.

This includes: -

- Physical abuse - Including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- Domestic Violence/Domestic Abuse - Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.
- Exploitation- Including sexual and/or criminal exploitation.
- Sexual abuse - Including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography. Witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- Psychological abuse - Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.
- Financial or material abuse - Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property,

inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

- Modern slavery - Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and those who coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- Discriminatory abuse - Including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment because you are, or are perceived to be different due to race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- Organisational abuse - Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to long-term ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes or practices within an organisation.
- Neglect and acts of omission - Including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Self-neglect - This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
- Radicalization - Drawing individuals into extreme ideologies or terrorist activities.

Reporting Concerns:

Any volunteers, committee, players, fans or employees who becomes aware that person is or is at risk of, being abused must raise the matter immediately with England Deaf Football, Club Welfare Officer and the club's county Football Association (FA). If the person requires immediate protection from harm, contact the police immediately.

Early sharing of information is the key to providing an effective response where there are emerging concerns. To ensure effective safeguarding arrangements no one should assume that someone else will do it.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

England Deaf Football expects all people who is involve with football and clubs to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared with appropriate professionals (i.e. Police, club's welfare officer, the FA, the County FA and local Social Service).

The Registered Sign Language Interpreter may will share only for translate from British Sign Language into written.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if the person is deemed to be at risk of harm or contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed.

Recording and Record Keeping:

A written record or video record (for the British Sign Language user) must be kept about any concern regarding a person with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made. The recording may share with appropriate professionals (i.e. Police, club's welfare officer, The FA, and county FA).

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially.

The Registered Sign Language Interpreter may will share only for translate from British Sign Language into written.

Capacity & consent.

Capacity - Anyone who acts for, or on behalf of, a person who may lack capacity to make relevant decisions has a duty to understand and always work in line with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and MCA Code of Practice.

Consent - All have the right to choice and control in their own lives. As a general principle, no action should be taken for, or on behalf of, an adult without obtaining their consent.

At the concern stage, the most common capacity & consent issues to consider will usually be:

- Understand and able to make decisions about the abuse or neglect related risks, & any immediate safety actions necessary.
- Immediate safety actions being taken
- Information being referred / shared with other agencies.

If it is felt that the person may not have the mental capacity to understand the relevant issues and to make a decision, it should be explained to them as far as possible, given the person's communication needs. They should also be given the opportunity to express their wishes and feelings.

It is important to establish whether the person has the mental capacity to make decisions. This may require the assistance of other professionals. In the event of the person not having capacity, relevant decisions and/or actions must be taken in the person's best interests. The appropriate decision-maker will depend on the decision to be made.

Reporting without consent:

If there is an overriding public interest, or if gaining consent would put the adult or child at further risk, the concern must be reported.

This includes situations where: -

- A risk or harm to the wellbeing and safety of the adult, child or others.
- Other person/s could be at risk from the person causing harm.
- Necessary to prevent crime or if a crime may have been committed.
- The person lacks capacity to give a consent.



The person would normally be informed of the decision to report and the reasons for this, unless telling them would put their safety or the safety of others.

The issues in deciding whether to report a concern to appropriate professionals without consent will be the harm or risk of harm to person, and risks to any other people who may have contact with the person causing harm.

Important Contacts:-

Sean Noone – General Secretary / Welfare Officer

Email address: generalsecretary@englanddeaffootball.co.uk

Mobile number: 07858 132447 (SMS or FaceTime only)

Ellie Davis – Cup Coordinator / Welfare Officer

Email address: cup@englanddeaffootball.co.uk

Police:

Emergency – 999 or 999BSL App (Download app)

Non-emergency – 101 or webchat (Online)

Also contact club's County's Football Association's safeguarding team

Review on: 15th August 2025

Next review: August 2026