

# HELP KEEP OUR GAME SAFE

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## SAFEGUARDING RESOURCE PACK

It's everyone's responsibility to make sure children and other vulnerable people are safe while participating in football.



FOR ALL

**RESPECT**

GOOD BEHAVIOUR MAKES FOR A GREAT GAME

# Keeping Football Safe & Enjoyable



Every child or vulnerable person 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 other vulnerable people 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



## Training and Qualifications

All Club and League Welfare Officers have undertaken safeguarding and welfare workshops and have a criminal records check.

We also provide FA coaching qualifications, safeguarding children workshops and first aid along with referee courses.

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

## Vetting and Supervision

All staff and volunteers who work in a role that involves regular and direct contact with children or vulnerable people are subject to a criminal records check.

Criminal records checks are completed every three years and failure to comply will lead to suspension.

# Harm & Abuse



Everyone in Liverpool County FA has a key role in keeping children and other vulnerable people safe and help to 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 it 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Bullying

Bullying is behavior that hurts someone else - such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumors, 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.

## 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.

## 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 scare or humiliate someone or isolating or ignoring them.

Don't forget, many of the things mentioned here have the potential to happen online as well in person. If you are concerned about bullying or abuse (including that which might be happening to another person) then please talk to the Club/ League Welfare Officer or the Designated Safeguarding Officer at Liverpool County FA.

**If you feel a child or vulnerable person is at risk of immediate or significant harm, contact the police.**



# Respect



## 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.

## 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 this 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.

## Coaches

Coaches have a hugely important role to play in Respect, as they are not only responsible for their own behaviour, but they can 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.

## 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 enforce their Codes of Conduct.

## 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.



[www.thefa.com/get-involved/  
player/respect/respect-resources](http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/respect/respect-resources)

# Safeguarding Expectations



This sets out the expectations of how adults should behave around children and other vulnerable people, manage and mitigate the risk of harm to participants and report their concerns.

If you are a volunteer and a child, vulnerable person or parent discloses a concern:

## 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.

## Remove them from further harm

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

## Make a note

Record what has been said if you can, noting the facts and not your opinion

## 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.

## Contact the Club/League or County Welfare Officers

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

## 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.

# 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 are well understood by others.
- 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 CRB 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 Liverpool County FA.

# Useful Contacts



Liverpool County FA covers a number of Local Authority areas together with two 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:

## Police Forces



### Cheshire Constabulary

Warrington Police Station, Arpley St, WA1 1LQ

[www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)

Email: [warrington.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:warrington.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Telephone: 01244 350000

Non-Emergency Tel: 101

Emergency Tel: 909



### Merseyside Police

[www.merseyside.police.uk](http://www.merseyside.police.uk)

Telephone: 0151 609 6010

Non-Emergency Tel: 101

Emergency Tel: 909

# Local Safeguarding Children Boards



## Warrington LSCB

New Town House, Buttermarket St,  
Warrington WA1 2NH.  
www.warringtonlscb.org  
Telephone: 01925 443400  
(out of hours call 01925 444400)



## Liverpool LSCB

Jaqui Taylor, LSCB Administrator, 5th Floor,  
Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1DS.  
Email: Jacqueline.taylor2@liverpool.gov.uk  
Telephone: 0151 233 0493/0510



## Sefton LSCB

Merton House, Stanley Rd, Bootle L20 3UU.  
Telephone: 0151 934 4706.  
Emergency numbers 0345 140 0845 & 0151 934 3555



## Knowsley LSCB

2nd Floor, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road,  
Huyton, L36 6GA.  
Telephone: 0151 443 4311  
Email: cheryl.smeatham@knowsley.gov.uk



## St Helens LSCB

Atlas House, Corporation Street, St Helens. WA9 1LD.  
www.sthelenslscb.org.uk/lscb  
Telephone: 01744 676600



## Mersey Care NHS Trust Foundation

V7 Building, Kings Business Park, Prescot, Liverpool, L34 1PJ  
Telephone: 0151 473 0303.  
Freephone 0800 328 2941.  
Email: palsandcomplaints@mersecare.nhs.uk

# Local Safeguarding Adult Boards



## Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board

www.merseysidesafeguardingadultsboard.co.uk



## Liverpool Safeguarding Adults Board

Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1DSE  
Telephone: 0151 233 3800  
www.liverpool.gov.uk/social-care/adult-social-care/  
keeping-adults-safe/adults-at-risk



## Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board

324-342 Stanley Road, Bootle L20 6ET.  
Telephone: 0151 934 3737  
www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/adults.aspx



## Knowsley Council

## Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board

6th Floor, Huyton Municipal Building, Archway Road,  
Knowsley Huyton, L36 9YU.  
Telephone: 0151 443 4311  
www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/care/safeguarding-  
adults/safeguarding-adults-board



## Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board

New Town House, Buttermarket St, Warrington WA1 2NH.  
Telephone 01925 443322  
(out of hour emergencies) 01925 444400  
Email: mailasc@warrington.gov.uk  
www.warrington.gov.uk/as



## St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board

St.Helens Council, Corporate Services, Town Hall,  
Victoria Square, St Helens. WA10 1HP.  
Telephone: 01744 676846.  
www.ascsthelens.co.uk/about-us/



**Liverpool CAHMS Partnership**  
 Alder Hey Hospital, Alder Rd., Liverpool L12 2AP.  
 Telephone: 0151 293 3662.  
 www.liverpoolcamhs.com

**childline**

**CHILDLINE**  
 Telephone: 0800 1111  
 www.childline.org.uk



**Samaritans**  
 Freepost RSRB-KKBY-CYJK,  
 PO Box 9090, STIRLING, FK8 2SA.  
 Telephone: 116 123  
 Email: jo@samaritans.org  
 www.samaritans.org



**The Oliver King Foundation**  
 23 Goodlass Road, Liverpool. L24 9HJ.  
 Telephone: 0151 728 3470  
 Email: info@oliverkingfoundation.co.uk



# 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 or strenuous exercise.

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.

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:  
[www.learning.thefa.com/totara/program/view.php?id=193](http://www.learning.thefa.com/totara/program/view.php?id=193)



# Safeguarding in Liverpool County FA



## Safeguarding in Liverpool

It is supported by a network of Club/League Welfare Officers and the Designated Safeguarding Officer. Call us on 0151 523 4488

**Gordon Johnson**  
Designated Safeguarding Officer  
Gordon.Johnson@LiverpoolFA.com  
Safeguarding@LiverpoolFA.com

**Nicola Ray**  
Safeguarding Administration Assistant  
Nicola.ray@liverpoolfa.com

## Useful Contacts

[www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/  
content/butterflies-project](http://www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/content/butterflies-project)

[www.rapecentre.org.uk](http://www.rapecentre.org.uk)

[www.steps-2-freedom.weebly.com/about.html](http://www.steps-2-freedom.weebly.com/about.html)

[www.ypas.org.uk](http://www.ypas.org.uk)







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