



Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Procedures

2020

Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport

Terms of reference and policy statement

Northumberland Sport is committed to helping people in Northumberland, especially children and young people, be more active for life. Our purpose is:

Everyone more active for life by 2028

By working through our network of partners we aim to ensure that every opportunity provided for young people to access sport and physical activity supports each child to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Have fun and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Develop positive attitudes to themselves and others

We believe that this approach encourages long term involvement in regular physical activity including through sport. Our Child Protection Policy and Procedures set out how we will seek to fulfil our commitment to children and young people to safeguard their welfare through sport in association with our partners, including statutory agencies such as Northumberland County Council children's services and the Police.

Northumberland Sport also recognises that some adult participants rely heavily on the support of other people to enable them to access sport and therefore may be at greater risk of abuse. Raising awareness of the need to provide for the safety of adults through the provision of sport in Northumberland is covered in our Safeguarding Adults at Risk policy and procedures.

Northumberland Sport accepts that it has a moral and legal responsibility to provide a duty of care, safeguard and uphold the rights of children to protection from abuse regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual identity.

Our policy and procedures aim to ensure that we:

- Provide information and advice about keeping children safe from harm in sport including how to make a complaint or raise concerns
- Carry out appropriate checks to ensure people recruited are suitable to work with children
- Operate and advocate codes of practice which; promote the highest standards of

behaviour, retain participants and provide foundations for life-long involvement in sport and physical activity and highlight poor or unacceptable practice whenever it occurs

- Treat all children equally and ensure that all children and young people are included in plans to safeguard them through sport
- Consult wherever possible with young people and parents about being safe in sport and how best to provide information
- Provide information to young people about where to go for help and advice
- Organise education and training opportunities to improve learning, awareness and quality of provision including training for designated safeguarding lead officers
- Monitor our progress implementing annual safeguarding plans
- Influence our partners, other sports organisations and providers to implement coordinated policies and procedures wherever possible written to national standards for safeguarding children in sport or equivalent.

Who is affected by this policy and procedure?

Northumberland Sport is part of the North North East Active Partnership (NNEAP) and its core team of staff work to NNEAP safeguarding procedures and related human resources policies and procedures. Northumberland Sport will therefore be bound to operate within procedures and appropriate management and advice e.g. complaints or allegations about staff which invoke internal capability and disciplinary procedures.

This policy and related procedures are designed to ensure that Northumberland Sport is working, as a base, to CPSU National Standards and requirements concerning annual review and continuous improvement. In this respect all core team personnel employed on behalf of Northumberland Sport are expected to work to this policy and related procedures. The policy and procedures will also be mandatory for all volunteer or casual staff employed by the CSP including students completing placements.

The CSP has an established role and purpose to influence partners and other organisations and stakeholders concerning safeguarding children and adults at risk through sport. An aspect of this function is commissioning activities through use of external funding for example linked to Sport England strategies and national programmes or through local partnership working and agreements. Northumberland Sport will ensure that all organisations commissioned to deliver activities involving children, will have appropriate and active safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures in place.

Additionally, Northumberland Sport will seek to work with commissioned organisations to advocate continuous improvement in order that planning for, and implementation of, their policy and procedures addresses fundamental elements covered by National Standards (Leadership, Policy & Procedures, Ethics and Values and Training). Northumberland Sport's policies and procedures will be used wherever appropriate as a source of advice and guidance in such instances.

The strategic influencing role of Northumberland Sport

Northumberland Sport has developed its role as the lead coordinating agency for physical activity and sport in Northumberland in line with its stated priority aims. This involves a primary role as a strategic influencing body concerned with increasing the proportion of local people who take part in regular physical activity (including through sport) through the development and delivery of high quality, purposeful relationships and services involving a range of local inter-related partners and stakeholders.

The NNEAP Board and Chief Executive Officer will provide strategic leadership for our safeguarding policy and implementation plans. Management of plans will be delegated through a designated safeguarding lead officer based within the Northumberland Sport Core Team.

Northumberland Sport will endeavour to work with local partners to sustain appropriate levels of awareness and quality practice aligned to national and local guidance concerned with the safeguarding and welfare of children through sport. Our network of partners will provide a forum for exchange of information, good practice and coordination of work which fits into Northumberland Sport's annual safeguarding action plan.

In order to underpin our efforts to drive standards for the safeguarding and protection of children in sport, all resources and funding allocated by Northumberland Sport or channelled through the Partnership structures, will be subject to Service Level Agreements (SLAs). These will secure confirmation from delivery partners of operational safeguarding policies and procedures. We will make it a condition of funding that delivery partners promote minimum safeguarding standards and that they undertake to carry out checks and provide advice which promotes and spreads minimum standards throughout local traditional and non-traditional sport and physical activity networks.

This is in line with updated statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) which highlights the responsibilities of charities and the requirements on all those working in sports and faith-based organisations to co-operate with the local police, council and health partners where requested acknowledging the important role these groups can play in promoting children's welfare.

Responding to concerns or allegations – duty to report

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child which come to your attention directly either through what you have seen or heard, you have a statutory duty to discuss those concerns with an appropriately designated person. This may be directly with Children’s Services or the Police if concerns are sufficiently serious or there isn’t time or the opportunity to discuss your concerns with a designated officer within Northumberland Sport or a relevant partner organisation.

The designated Children’s Safeguarding Officers for Northumberland Sport are listed below:

Name	Title	Contact Details
Malcolm Moore	Lead Safeguarding Officer	07827 896037
		malcolm.moore@northumberlandsport.co.uk
Gail Ballance	Deputy Safeguarding Officer	07795 014285
		gail.ballance@northumberlandsport.co.uk

Emergency:

If a child is in immediate danger or left alone, you should contact the police or call an ambulance on 999.

Northumberland County Council

Contact telephone numbers and information for Northumberland County Council Children’s Services is available at

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/What-can-I-do-if-I-suspect-a-child-or-young-person.aspx#worriedaboutachild-reportyourconcerns>

You can report abuse and neglect by completing an online form using the link shown below, or telephone 01670 536000 during office hours, or 0345 6005252 out of hours

<https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=SafeGuardingchild>

Non-emergency:

Onecall NCC 24/7 phone line on 01670 536 400 or send a written referral to:

Childrenstriage@northumberland.gov.uk

Local Teams	Telephone No.
Children's Social Care Team - North Locality	01670 629400
Children's Social Care Team - Central Locality	01670 536000
Children's Social Care Team - South East Locality	01670 629600
Children's Social Care Team - West Locality	01434 611499
Disabled Children Team	01670 516131
14+ Team	01670 622930
Children's Social Care Team - Out of Hours	0345 6005252
Northumbria Police Public Protection Team	01661 827555

Concerns about the welfare of a child can come to light through a variety of settings. Our main concern is the establishment of standards, practices and codes which prevent abuse through and within sport. However, those working in sport need to be aware of the potential for information to come to their attention about potential abuse which is occurring outside sport.

This is an essential and inherent part of Northumberland Sport's activities and responsibilities to children and founded on the provision of sports activities by adults that children can trust, respect and depend on to help and protect them where necessary.

Staff members needing to report concerns should use the reporting procedures and guidance above and listed in supporting documents to this policy.

Northumberland Sport will take disclosure of all concerns and allegations very seriously and manage these through the appropriate processes. We will take care to ensure accurate recording of details, sensitive management of information and information exchange and respect for the rights of individuals. In all cases Northumberland Sport will work within local safeguarding and child protection structures and respond to their advice and guidance wherever necessary.

Northumberland Sport Child Protection Procedures and Guidance

Northumberland Sport has a number of procedures as well as a code of practice aligned to its Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. These are designed to:

- Ensure safe and appropriate recruitment of adults working with children in line with legislation
- Provide guidance and advice including the training of staff and volunteers
- Establish minimum standards and codes of conduct
Inform and guide actions and response in the event of incidents.

For further information about Northumberland Sport's Child Safeguarding procedures please contact www.northumberlandsport.co.uk or the Lead or Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer identified above.