

# Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Whitefield Bowling Club has considered its responsibilities to the young people and vulnerable members and visitors participating in bowls at our premises and within our club very carefully. We have produced the following Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and underpinning procedures to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children, safeguarding and the welfare of the vulnerable in our care.

Whitefield Bowling Club Community Interest Company affiliates to the National Governing Body and the Club recognises the policies of the BCBGA, as set out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”. We extend this duty across all activities and events.

## 1. Policy Statement

Whitefield Bowling Club acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all young people (defined as those under 18) involved in bowls and while attending the premises. All young people and the vulnerable have a right to protection, and have their particular needs taken into account.

Whitefield Bowling Club will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved with the club through the Child Protection guidelines we have adopted. We will endeavour to ensure safety and protection of any vulnerable people involved or attending our club. It is the responsibility of all adults within the club to assist the Whitefield Bowling Club Community Interest Company in this endeavour.

## 2. Policy Aims

- To provide young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club and also help them to enjoy their experience of the sport of bowls.
- To reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the club.
- To provide vulnerable people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club.
- To provide support to club members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

## 3. Principles

- The welfare of young people is paramount.
- All young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin or religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse.

- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff and volunteers attending the Club have a responsibility to report concerns to our club Safeguarding Officer (Simon Taylor : Director 07770 909435 or [whitefieldbowlingclubcic@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldbowlingclubcic@gmail.com))
- Adults – club members, volunteers, coaches, referees and members will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people by the club and the National Governing Body.
- Individuals will receive support through education and training, coordinated by the club/national governing body to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues that may come to light.
- Whitefield Bowling Club will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures. The directors expect every child (under 18) to be accompanied by parent/guardian/chaperons while using the premises.
- Whitefield Bowling Clubs policy and procedures are based on the above principles and UK and international legislation and government guidance and take the following into consideration:
  - The Children Act 1989 and 2004.
  - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.
  - The UN Convention on the rights of the Child.
  - Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

#### **4. Responsibilities and Communication**

- Whitefield Bowling Club Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants via our web pages.
- The policy will be reviewed every three years by the Directors and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls National Governing Bodies will be sought as part of the review process.

- The directors have responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the national Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate club staff where relevant.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the club in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep themselves safe.
- If a club becomes aware that one of their members has been convicted of, or charged with, a serious sexual offence it is the responsibility of the club to inform the County Safeguarding Officer of the person's name, address and the nature of the conviction/charge.

## **5. Monitoring and Review**

- This policy will be reviewed one year after being introduced and then every three years or in response to significant new legislation.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the National Governing Body and Bowling Development procedures.