

**Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

Whitefield Bowling Club Community Interest Companyhas considered its responsibilities to young people using or visiting our premises, participating in bowls, spectating, playing games, attending functions very carefully and in terms of all relevant legislation, health and safety and best practice and has produced the following **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards we will uphold in providing activities and safeguarding the welfare of children and our members on our premises.

WhitefieldBowling Club CIC as a private members club holds its responsibilities to Child protection and support in the highest possible regard. There will be NO exclusions or waiver from this statement and policy. We recognise as a community facility and service provider we must be vigilant and mindful of visits and events that may be “unsupervised” or within ‘normal” operational hours or sessions.

**1. Policy Statement**

Whitefield Bowling Club CIC acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all young people (defined as those under **18)** involved within the club. All young people have a right to protection, and have their 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 adopted by the Directors. It is the responsibility of all adults, parents, and guardians to ensure this policy and statement is enacted.

**2. Policy Aims**

* To provide young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club and help them to enjoy their experience.
* To ensure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the club and remind them that control and visiting has strict terms and responsibilities.
* 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. To ensure that Children are not subject to language or behaviour that is unsuitable or inappropriate.
* To protect staff, members and the public from situations that could be deemed inappropriate or unsuitable behaviour.

**3. Principles**

* The welfare of young people is paramount.
* All young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and 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 be that parent, guardian or member/spectator.
* All Children will be off the premises before **18:00** on **ALL** occasions. This is a key responsibility to protect both Children, Members and our community from circumstances and situations that could arise.
* All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns to their Club Safeguarding Officer (Tina McGlynn).
* Adults – club members, parents, staff, guardians, volunteers, coaches, referees will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people by the club.
* In accordance with licensing and common law, no child under the age of 18 will be allowed to purchase or drink alcohol on, in or within the boundaries of this Club. Any attempt to purchase or serve will result in the immediate exclusion of staff, parent/guardian and the underage person(s). The police should be informed on any occasions where this is attempted.
* In accordance with legislation no adult, child, member or official, member of our community, competitor, visitor will be allowed to carry, use, promote drugs of any classification (other than personally prescribed). Any breaches will be reported to the police and the person(s) barred from WBCCIC.
* Individuals will receive support to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues and their duty.
* Whitefield Bowling Club CIC will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
* Whitefield Bowling Club’s policy and procedures are based on the above principles and U.K 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.
* Licensing and legislation.
* 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, community, partners, parents, staff, volunteers, and participants.
* The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Directors and amended as appropriate.
* The Directors have responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary or legal recourse.
* The Club Safeguarding Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns, or child protection incidents. Responsibility to ensure that the terms and conditions within this policy are enacted and prohibiting any incidents. Excluding any members, staff or members of the public from entering or using these premises.
* 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.
* **NO** child will be allowed on the premises at **ANY** time without the Parent or legal Guardian.

**5. Monitoring and review**

* This policy will be reviewed in 2026 after being introduced and then every three years or in response to any significant new legislation.
* The policy will be monitored in partnership with the National Governing Body and Bowling Development Alliance procedures.

The policy is to be policed by staff, members and the public and any infringements reported immediately.