



Child Protection Policy

Child Protection Policy Statement

Four Corners Development Centre ("the Centre") acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people (defined as any person under the age of 18) involved in football which it organises or which it supervises and is committed to working to provide them with a safe environment. The Centre subscribes to The Football Association's Child Protection Best Practice Policy and Procedures, Safeguarding Children and Young People in football (revised edition 2006) and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document namely:

"Every child or young person, defined as any person under the age of 18, who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and should be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football.

The English FA recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The English FA is, therefore, committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children and young people to participate in the sport to the best of their abilities so long as they choose to do so".

Key Principles

The key principles of this Child Protection Policy and that of the English FA are that:

The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;

All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation;

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;

Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential.

Acknowledgement

The Centre acknowledges that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. The Centre recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in the Centre.

Role

The Centre has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulation applies to all persons involved in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are volunteers, match officials, helpers on Centre tours, football coaches, Centre officials or medical staff.

The Centre endorses and will apply the Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulation and will treat any infraction of that regulation as misconduct which will be the subject of the



Centre's disciplinary procedures in addition to any other procedures which may be undertaken by any other body or authority.

All current Centre members with direct access to children and young people will undergo a strict interview and review process.

Whistle blowing

Whistle blowing can be used as an early warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken. This approach or policy is adopted in many different walks of life.

It is about revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation or within an independent structure associated with it.

The Centre supports the FA's whistle blowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can whistle blow by writing to info@4cornersdc.co.uk.

Reporting Concerns

Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child, it is important that you report your concerns – no action is not an option. The Head Coach will be the first point of contact for all Centre members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. The Head Coach will play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse among Centre members.

i. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Head Office by emailing info@4cornersdc.co.uk

ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the Head Office will either:

- deal with the matter themselves or
- raise the issue to the Head Coach or
- seek advice from the English FA Safeguarding department

Bullying

The Centre acknowledges and endorses the FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at the Centre. If bullying does occur, all parents or parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Head Coach and the Head Office by emailing info@4cornersdc.co.uk.

Codes of Conduct

Codes of Conduct for players, parents or spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by the Centre. In order to validate these Codes of Conduct the Centre has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at Centre level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues or the Football Association in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these Codes as part of the terms and conditions.