



Skewen FC Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

What is child abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatments of a child. A child is abused and neglected when someone inflicts significant harm, or fails to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger. A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. “Children”, therefore, means “children and young people” throughout. The fact that a child has become 16 years of age and may be living independently does not change their status or their entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act, 1989.

Significant harm is defined in legislation as serious ill treatment or the impairment of health and development of a child, compared with that which could be reasonably expected of a similar child.

Everybody should:

- be alert to potential indicators of harm, abuse and neglect;
- be alert to the risks that abusers may pose to children;
- share their concerns so that information can be gathered to assist in the assessment of the child’s needs and circumstances;
- work with agencies to contribute to actions that are needed to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare
- Continue to support the child and their family.

Classifications of Abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Financial abuse

Prevention

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps to safeguard pupils. At Skewen FC we acknowledge our safeguarding responsibilities to prevent impairment of health and development of participants and ensure they receive safe and effective care. This is why we ensure that safeguarding features throughout all our club policies and procedures.

In addition, Skewen FC will therefore:

- establish and maintain an ethos where participants feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
- ensure participants know that there are adults whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty
- include in the club sessions, activities and opportunities for Personal Social Education (PSE) which equip participants with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help
- include in the club sessions, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality issues need to be understood if a child divulges information they are being abused. A child may only feel confident to confide in a Skewen FC member if they feel that the information will not be divulged to anyone else. However, Skewen FC have a professional responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with the statutory agencies when a child is experiencing harm.

It is important that each Skewen FC member deals with this sensitively and explains to the child that they must inform the appropriate people who can help the child, but that they will only tell those who need to know in order to be able to help. They should reassure the child and tell them that their situation will not become common knowledge within Skewen FC.

Be aware that it may well have taken significant courage on their part to disclose the information and that they may also be experiencing conflicting emotions, involving feelings of guilt, embarrassment, disloyalty (if the abuser is someone close) and hurt.

Please remember the responsibility of Skewen FC . Ensure that only those with a professional involvement, e.g. the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) have access to the safeguarding and child protection records. At all other times they should be kept securely locked and separate from the child's main file.

The Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) is:

Josh Reed

Email : skewenfcsafeguarding@gmail.com

Procedures

These should be followed in the event of a safeguarding or child protection disclosure/concern

We will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures that have been endorsed by West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board. Skewen FC will:

- Ensure it has a Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) who has undertaken the appropriate training.
- Recognise the role of the DSP and arrange support and training at higher levels in accordance with their level of responsibility.
- Ensure every Skewen FC coach or manager/ volunteer knows:
 - The name of the DSP and their role and the designated person for safeguarding and child protection.
 - That they have an individual responsibility for reporting safeguarding and child protection concerns using the proper channels and within the timescales agreed within Wales Safeguarding Procedures.
 - How to take forward those concerns where the DSP is unavailable.
- Ensure that Skewen FC coach or manager/ volunteer are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to a person who may disclose abuse.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on Skewen FC for safeguarding and child protection by setting out its obligations in the Club welcome pack.
- Provide a safeguarding and child protection briefing at least yearly for all Skewen FC coach or managers/ volunteer so that they know:
 - Their personal responsibility.
 - The need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse.
 - How to support a child who discloses abuse.

- Any new safeguarding and child protection issues or changes in procedures.
- Notify local social services if:
 - If there is an unexplained absence of a person on the child protection register.
- Work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding safeguarding and child protection matters.
- Keep written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to social services immediately.
- Ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations.
- Ensure that safe recruitment and selection procedures are followed and appropriate training is accessed.

Making a report

All safeguarding and child protection reports must be made by email in the 1st instance to:

Josh Reed

Email : skewenfcsafeguarding@gmail.com

Dealing with a disclosure

Receive

- Listen carefully to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief. Accept what is said. The person making the disclosure may be known to you as someone who does not always tell the truth. However do not let your past knowledge of this person allow you to pre-judge or invalidate their allegation.
- Do not attempt to investigate the allegation. Your duty will be to listen to what is being said and to pass that information on.

Reassure

Provide the person with plenty of reassurance. Always be honest and do not make promises you cannot keep, for example: “I’ll stay with you”, or, “Everything will be all right now”.

- Alleviate guilt, if the person refers to it. For example, you could say: “You’re not to blame. This is not your fault”.
- Do not promise confidentiality. You will be under a duty to pass the information on and the person needs to know this.

React

- You can ask questions and may need to in certain instances. However this is not an opportunity to interrogate the person and go into the territory of in depth and prolonged questioning. You only need to know the salient points of the allegation that the person is making. Any questions must be open and not leading.
- Do not criticise the perpetrator as the person may still have a positive emotional attachment to this person.
- Do not ask the person to repeat their allegation to another member of Skewen FC. If they are asked to repeat it they may feel that they are not being believed and / or their recollection of what happened may change.

Record

- Take notes as soon as it is practical to do so. Record the actual words spoken by the person – do not re-translate them into terminology or try to make sense of the structure of what was said. Do not be offended by any offensive language or words used to describe the abuse.
- Ensure your name, the time and date is on your notes and do not destroy them in case they are required by a court.
- If you are able to do so then draw a diagram to indicate the position of any bruising but do not ask the person to remove any clothing for this purpose.
- Record statements and observable things, rather than your interpretations' or assumptions.

Final Steps

- Once you have followed the above guidelines, pass the information on immediately to the DSP. They will then have a number of options open to them, including contacting the local Social Services Team to seek their advice as to what should happen next.

Review

This policy will be reviewed and ratified annually at a full governing body meeting at least once a year and recorded in the minutes. In preparation for this review, the DSP may wish to provide the Governing Body with information on the following:-

- Changes to Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.
- The number of incidents of a Safeguarding or Child Protection nature which arose in Skewen FC within the preceding 12 months (without details or names).
- Lessons learned from cases.