

Safeguarding in sports clubs: Advice for parents and carers

Stockport Safeguarding Children Board in conjunction with Life Leisure fully recognises and supports the fantastic opportunities that grassroots sports clubs offer to children across our borough, providing ways for them to gain new skills, build confidence and improve their health through the enjoyment of sport. Grassroots sport also provide great benefit to adults in the community, and this includes those with physical disabilities and learning disabilities who may be accessing them with support. However, recent events reported in the press have reminded us of the importance of keeping children and vulnerable adults safe whilst they are involved in these beneficial activities.

As a parent or carer, you will want to be sure that your child's safety is the highest priority for any sports clubs that they may attend. You may find it is useful to ask them the following kinds of questions:

Can I see your safeguarding policy?

A good club should have up to date safeguarding procedures in place and be happy to provide/show you copies.

Who is your club Welfare Officer?

The club, irrespective of which sport it is, should have a designated Welfare Officer who is responsible for dealing with any safeguarding concerns that may arise.

Do you follow Safer Recruitment procedures?

Every organisation providing sporting activities to young people must ensure they have the correct recruitment processes in place which includes interviews, references and have undertaken the appropriate police checks for their volunteers and staff.

How do you promote the welfare of children and young people?

The club should be able to demonstrate how they actively promote safeguarding which includes listening and responding to the views of children and young people.

Please do not be afraid to ask questions – a good and professional organisation will already have procedures in place and will welcome the chance to demonstrate that they are providing a safe environment for your child.

Life Leisure also promote the use of Clubmark as an accreditation of good practice and will signpost to those sports clubs which have the accreditation or are actively working towards it. It shows that a community club provides the right environment which ensures the welfare of members and duty of care to participants. As well as encouraging a lifelong interest in sport.

<http://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/club-mark/>

Life Leisure are happy to provide information about sports clubs across Stockport.

The number is 0161 482 0920.

You can find further information about safeguarding in your child's particular sport in the following links:

- [Athletics \(external link\)](#)
- [Cricket \(external link\)](#)
- [Football \(external link\)](#)
- [Gymnastics \(external link\)](#)
- [Netball \(external link\)](#)
- [Rugby League \(external link\)](#)
- [Rugby Union \(external link\)](#)
- [Swimming \(external link\)](#)
- [Tennis \(external link\)](#)

If you have concerns:

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child or children ring:

Stockport Multi Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub - **0161 217 6028**

Or Out of Hours service - **0161 718 2118**

If you would prefer to speak to the Police call **101** or if you feel there is an immediate risk call **999**.

You may also report suspicions or talk through concerns with the NSPCC:

[Contact the NSPCC](#)

See also: **[NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit Advice for Parents](#)**