



**LEWES COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB
THE DRIPPING PAN
MOUNTFIELD ROAD
LEWES
BN7 2XA**

Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

LEWES COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB	
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Lewes FC - Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

1. Lewes Football Club (Lewes FC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that:

- the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
- all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief;
- 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;
- We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Lewes Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Lewes FC 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 Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff

4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:

- specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
- request identification documents
- as a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s), and where possible interview people before appointing them
- ask for and follow up with references before appointing someone
- where eligible require an FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations.

5. All current Lewes FC members working in eligible roles, with children and young people - such as managers and coaches are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice.

6. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Lewes Football Club, guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the CRC Process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

7. It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

8. Lewes FC supports The FA's **Whistle Blowing Policy**. Any adult or young person with concerns about a adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistleblow' by:

- Calling Sussex County FA on 01903 768578 or emailing Safeguarding@SussexFA.com
- Calling The **FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863**, or by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com;
- Contacting NSPCC via help@nspcc.org.uk
- Contacting Child Protection in Sport Unit via cpsu@nspcc.org.uk
- or alternatively by going direct to the Police or Children's Social Care

Lewes Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

9. Lewes FC has appointed a **Club Welfare Officer** in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. **The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person.** The Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

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.

i. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Lewes FC Safeguarding and Welfare Officer, Amanda Walderman, on 07551 880556 or at amanda@lewesfc.com, in the first instance.

ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer will either:

- deal with the matter themselves; or
- seek advice from the Sussex FA Welfare Officer

iii. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children’s Social Care.

iv. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let the Lewes FC Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the Sussex FA Welfare Officer.

v. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either contact the :

- Sussex County FA Welfare Officer directly on 01903 768578
- FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- Police or Children’s Social Services
- NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

10. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

Amanda Walderman
T: 07551 880556
E: amanda@lewesfc.com

Sussex Football Association’s Welfare Officer
T: 01903 768578
E: Sandra.Redhead@SussexFA.com
or Larette.Tritton@SussexFA.com

The Football Association
<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding>
Emailing–Safeguarding@TheFA.com
The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line - 0845 210 8080

Anti-Bullying

11. Lewes FC acknowledges and endorses The FA’s identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer. In cases of serious bullying the Sussex FA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

Respect - Code of Conduct

12 Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents, Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Lewes Football Club. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.