Wakefield
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Wakefield Sports Club Safeguarding Project

Working Together to Keep Children Safe in Sport



WHY WE ARE CONTACTING YOU

Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) is carrying out a district-wide project to better understand the sport and physical activity opportunities available to children and young people across Wakefield.

Sports clubs play a vital role in children's lives, helping them build confidence, resilience, physical health, social skills and positive relationships. Because children spend so much time in sporting environments, clubs, coaches, volunteers and officials are key partners in keeping them safe.

WHAT THE PROJECT AIMS TO DO

- ☑ Map the sports club operating across Wakefield
- ☑ Understand the opportunities and support available for children and young people
- ☑ Explore how accesible sport is for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- ☑ Review safeguarding arrangements in sports settings
- ☑ Identify safeguarding challenges and where clubs may need support
- ☑ Strengthen links between sports clubs and local safeguarding partners
- ☑ Develop practical recommendations and resources to support good practice

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

We are asking sports clubs, activity providers, coaches, volunteers and safeguarding leads to complete a short survey.

Time needed: 5-10 minutes
Survey link: here

The survey asks about:

- Your club's activities and provision
- Inclusion and accessibility
- Safeguarding arrangements
- Training and support needs
- Safeguarding challenges and risks
- Opportunities for partnership working

Your views and experiences will help us to build a clearer picture of the local sports sector and improve safeguarding for children across the district.

Please share the survey with colleagues, volunteers and safeguarding leads in your organisation.

ABOUT WAKEFIELD SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

WSCP is the statutory safeguarding partnership for the Wakefield District. It is led by three safeguarding partners and supported by an Independent Scrutineer:

- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
- NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- West Yorkshire Police

The partnership makes sure organisations work together effectively so that:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted
- Agencies work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children
- Safeguarding risks are identified and responded to early
- Learning and good practice is shared
- Organisations are appropriately challenged and held to account

THE WSCP BUSINESS UNIT DEVELOPS, DELIVERS AND PROMOTES:

- Multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures
- Safeguarding training and learning opportunities
- Reviews of, and learning from, safeguarding practice
- Quality assurance of safeguarding arrangements
- Information, resources and guidance for professionals and volunteers

WHAT DOES SAFEGUARDING IN SPORTS MEAN?

Making sure every child has a safe environment in which to take part, develop and thrive, free from abuse, neglect, exploitation or harm.

WHAT EVERY SPORTS CLUB SHOULD HAVE:

- ✓ Safeguarding policy that is reviewed regularly
- ✓ Named Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) whose contact details everyone knows
- ✓ Safer recruitment, including appropriate DBS checks
- ✓ Code of Conduct for staff, volunteers, parents and participants
- ✓ Clear procedures for reporting concerns and managing allegations
- ✓ Appropriate supervision and staffing ratios
- ✓ Safeguarding training for staff and volunteers
- ✓ Guidance on photography, social media and online contact with children

Check your club against against the Organisational Checklist from the Ann Craft Trust.

wakefield council working for you

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION

Possible signs that a child may need help include:

- Sudden changes in behaviour or mood
- Changes in appearance or emotional wellbeing
- Unexplained injuries or buising
- Poorly fitting or innapropriate clothing or kit
- Missing sessions often, or becoming reluctant to attend
- Seeming anxious or withdrawn around a particular person
- Receiving unusual gifts, lifts or special attention from an adult
- Telling you about something they have experienced or witnessed

One sign on its own does not necessarily mean a child is being harmed. Always take concerns seriously and follow your club's safeguarding procedures.

IF A CHILD TELLS YOU SOMETHING

1. **STAY CALM AND LISTEN** - LET THEM TALK AT THEIR OWN PACE
2. **TAKE IT SERIOUSLY** - REASSURE THEM THAT THEY HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING BY TELLING YOU AND THAT YOU BELIEVE THEM
3. **DON'T PROMISE SECRECY** - EXPLAIN THAT YOU WILL NEED TO SHARE IT TO HELP KEEM THEM SAFE
4. **DON'T ASK LEADING QUESTIONS** OR INVESTIGATE YOURSELF
5. **WRITE IT DOWN** - RECORD WHAT WAS SAID IN THE CHILD'S OWN WORDS, WITH THE DATE AND TIME
6. **REPORT IT THE SAME DAY** TO YOUR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)

REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

In an emergency

If a child is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical help: CALL 999

Non-emergency concerns

1. **Follow your club's safeguarding policy.**
2. **Tell your DSL as soon as possible.**
3. **Record what happened accurately, how you reported it and to whom.**
4. **Contact the Integrated Front Door on 0345 8503 503 for advice or to make a referral.**
5. **Inform your national governing body's safeguarding team where appropriate.**

If there is no one else to help, or you are not satisfied with the response, contact the Integrated Front Door or the police directly.

Concerns about an adult in your club

If someone who works or volunteers with children may have harmed a child, committed an offence against a child, or behaved in a way that suggests they are unsuitable to work with children, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) must be told within one working day.

LADO: 01977 727032
Lado.Referrals@wakefield.gov.uk

KEY SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

Wakefield Integrated Front Door (Children)
Telephone: 0345 8503 503
Mon-Thu 8:30am-5pm, Fri 8:30am-4:30pm
Out of hours: Same number (emergencies only)

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
Telephone: 01977 727 032
Email: Lado.Referrals@wakefield.gov.uk

West Yorkshire Police
Emergency: 999 | Non-emergency: 101

NSPCC Helpline
Telephone: 0800 800 5000
Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line
Telephone: 0800 028 0285

Childline (for children and young people)
Telephone: 0800 1111

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Contact the WSCP Business Unit:

Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership
Email: wscp@wakefield.gov.uk
Telephone: 01924 306 497
Website: www.wakefieldscp.org.uk

Please note: WSCP cannot take reports about individual children. If you are worried about a child, see "Reporting concerns".

USEFUL RESOURCES

- Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership
- WSCP Knowledge Hub - Safeguarding in Sport
- Worried about a child?
- Child Protection in Sport Unit (NSPCC)
- Yorkshire Sport - Safeguarding in Sport
- Ann Craft Trust - Safeguarding disabled children in sport
- Working Together to Safeguard Children - Statutory Guidance

TRAINING AVAILABLE

- WSCP Basic Awareness Safeguarding Training
- WSCP Managing Allegations Against Staff training
- NSPCC Safer Recruitment training
- **Your national governing body's safeguarding training**

THANK YOU

By taking part in this project, you will help strengthen safeguarding across local sports settings and create safer environments for children and young people throughout Wakefield.

Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership

Please complete the survey and share it with colleagues, volunteers and safeguarding leads in your organisation.