



# CHILD PROTECTION

South Shields FC Foundation  
Charity Number 1176894

## PURPOSE

To ensure South Shields FC Foundation provides a safe environment for all its activities.

## VERSION

Jan 2021

## Statement of Intent

1. South Shields FC Foundation wants to work with children, parents and the community to ensure the safety and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults while they enjoy the best in football coaching and related activities.

## Aims

2. Our aims are to:
  - a. provide a safe environment for all our activities;
  - b. safeguard the welfare of every child, young person or vulnerable adult who has been entrusted to our care;
  - c. ensure that every member of staff, associate or volunteer learns and consistently practises our code of conduct on child protection and safety;
  - d. enable participants to have the trust and self confidence to resist and report inappropriate approaches;
  - e. maintain procedures that ensure swift and appropriate response to any breach of our code of conduct.
3. We subscribe to The Football Association's child protection and best practice policy and procedures. The key principles of this policy are:
  - a. the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
  - b. all children have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation;
  - c. all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;



FOUNDATION@SOUTHSHIELDSFC.CO.UK



@SSFCFOUNDATION



0191 4547800

- d. working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and the parents or carers is essential.
- 4. We note that The Football Association's child protection regulation (contained in the FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- 5. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at South Shields Football Club, whether perpetrated by staff, volunteers or participants. We promote a culture of value and respect for the individual.

## Methods

### Staffing and volunteering

- 6. Our named person who coordinates child protection issues is Martin Urwin.
- 7. We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children.
- 8. We request identification documents and as of September 2017 will seek references from everyone who wishes to work for us.
- 9. We require current CRC / DBS Disclosure for everyone working with us who will be coming directly into contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- 10. All staff and volunteers are familiarised and provided with our code of conduct.
- 11. We take security steps to ensure that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children.

### Training

- 12. We seek out training opportunities for everyone working directly with children, young people or vulnerable adults on behalf of South Shields Football Club Foundation to ensure that they are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of possible physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse that may occur while the child is in our care and that they know the procedures for reporting and

recording their concerns.

13. Included in our training is the understanding that we have a responsibility for observing each other in this respect and a duty to report any concerns or suspicious behaviour.

#### **Planning**

14. We ensure that the layout of the halls, pitches and other spaces used for South Shields Football Club Foundation sessions allows for constant supervision. Where children need to spend time away from the rest of the group they are supervised by a member of staff at all times. The taking of photographs and videos is prohibited except with the express permission in writing of the parent or guardian of any child who is or may be in the picture. Even where photographs or other images are taken with such permission they may not be publicly displayed with the name or other obvious identification of individual children.

#### **Complaints**

15. We ensure that all parents know how to complain about staff or volunteers involved in our activities, which may include an allegation of abuse.
16. We follow the guidance of the County Football Association's Welfare Officer when investigating any complaint that a member of staff or volunteer has abused a child.
17. We follow all the disclosure and recording procedures when investigating an allegation that a member of staff or volunteer has abused a child, young person or vulnerable adult as if it were an allegation of abuse by any other person.

#### **Disclosures**

18. Where a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff:
  - a. offers reassurance to the child;
  - b. listens to the child; and
  - c. gives reassurance that she or he will take action.
19. The member of staff or volunteer does not question the child.

#### **Recording suspicions, complaints and disclosures**

20. Staff make a record of:
  - a. the child's name;
  - b. the child's address;

- c. the age of the child;
- d. the date and time of the observation, complaint or disclosure;
- e. an objective record of the observation, complaint or disclosure;
- f. the exact words spoken by the child;
- g. the name of the person to whom the concern was reported, with date and time;
- h. the names of any other person present at the time.

21. These records are signed and dated and kept in a separate confidential file. All members of staff know the procedures for recording and reporting.

#### **Informing Parents**

22. Parents or guardians are normally the first point of contact. If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of the County Football Association's Welfare Officer recommends otherwise.

#### **Confidentiality**

23. All suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared under the guidance of the County Football Association's Welfare Officer.

#### **Whistle blowing**

24. Notwithstanding the child protection measures in place above, South Shields Football Club supports the whistle blowing policy adopted by the FA. Any adult or young person with concerns about a adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com) or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. South Shields Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.