



# BROADSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB

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## Child Protection

### Club Policy and Procedures

#### **Responsibilities**

- Concerns about the welfare of children “in our care,” involving abuse or possible abuse -
  1. In football settings
  2. In the home or other settings
- Recognising that something is wrong
- Acting upon information received
- Acting upon information given directly by the child involved

#### **Forms of child abuse**

There are five main categories (*examples in the football environment shown in italics*):

- Physical abuse by adults (*including excessive/inappropriate training methods*)
- Neglect (e.g. lack of food/insufficient clothing; lack of supervision at home, *failure to ensure safety, exposure to extremes of weather*)
- Sexual abuse by adults/peers (*including inappropriate touching/physical contact*)
- Emotional abuse (e.g. lack of love at home, *criticism, bullying, unrealistic pressure*)
- Bullying (physical/verbal/emotional)

#### **Club policy**

- Club is to appoint a designated person (“Child Welfare Officer”), who will
  1. administer the Club’s policy
  2. be available to all, at any time, to advise on all aspects of Child Abuse
  3. initiate and process vetting procedures
  4. receive/process reports of obvious or possible abuse
  5. be someone that anyone within the Club can turn to – in the strictest of confidence – at any time
- Existence and contact details of the Child Welfare Officer is to be widely communicated to all Club members/parents etc.
- Any suspicions/concerns/incidents/accusations should be reported direct to the Child Welfare Officer who shall
  1. deal with each incident in strict confidence
  2. decide the appropriate action to be taken
  3. notify the appropriate authorities if deemed appropriate
  4. call a meeting with Officers of the Club as appropriate

### **Approval/clearance of responsible personnel**

1. The Child Welfare Officer is to identify all individuals within the Club (managers/coaches/helpers/etc.) who might at any time be left alone with a child/children
2. The Child Welfare Officer is to maintain a register of all personnel identified
3. Each of those personnel will be required to complete an FA Personal Disclosure form
4. The Child Welfare Officer will submit those forms to the FA for clearance, and will monitor progress.

### **Circumstances under which action needs to be taken**

- A child expresses their concern about someone's behaviour towards them
- A responsible adult within the Club, becomes aware through their own observations or through a third party, of possible abuse occurring within a football setting
- A child gives information directly that they are being abused at home or within some other setting (outside of football)
- A responsible adult within the Club, becomes aware through their own observations or through a third party, of possible abuse at a child's home or within some other setting (outside of football)

### **Action in respect of an allegation of an incident within the Club**

- In the event the Child Welfare Officer receives information in respect of an alleged misdemeanour committed by someone within the Club that in his opinion could be justified, he should call a meeting between himself, the Chairman and the Club Secretary. In the event of unavailability, the Vice Chairman (primarily) and the Treasurer shall be called upon to make a quorum of three.
- The following course of action should be taken depending on the findings/conclusions from that meeting
  1. If negative (i.e. considered unjustified) advise the "accuser" of the findings
  2. if justified (i.e. considered warranting further action or investigation) take the following action dependent upon seriousness:
    - a) if considered 'non-reportable to the FA,' deal with in-house by interviewing the "accused," and bringing attention to any suspected failings. Notify "accuser" of action taken
    - b) if considered reportable, notify the facts to the Child Protection Unit of the Football Association at the earliest opportunity. The attendees of the meeting shall decide whether or not it is appropriate to advise the 'accused' that we have received a complaint which we consider we are legally obliged to report to the FA.

### **Action in respect of suspected child abuse outside of the Club**

In the event the Child Welfare Officer receives information in respect of an alleged incident of child abuse that has occurred outside of the Club's responsibilities, he should notify the appropriate authorities through recommended channels.

July 2010



President: A Brooke    Chairman: A Fisher    Hon. Secretary: K Cuddy