



## **IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM REGARDING COVID-19**

Since the suspension of the season, we have been working with the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), Ann Craft Trust and other governing bodies to assess the impact of Covid-19.

The welfare of children, young people and adults at risk remains of paramount importance and we would like to thank all members for their continued commitment to safeguarding.

This statement provides an update on the following:

- Information about how you can support vulnerable groups at this time
- Changes announced by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
- Changes to delivery of face-to-face Safeguarding Training
- End-of-season survey for Welfare Officers

### **COVID-19: HOW WE CAN ALL SUPPORT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AT RISK**

At this time of great uncertainty, when we are all experiencing such dramatic changes to everyday life, there are different risks to children and adults in the basketball community. While we cannot control many of the impacts of Covid-19, we can work together to provide support and guidance to those most in need and act upon concerns if they are raised.

Together with our Chief Medical Officer, we have compiled below a list of suggestions, links and resources which we hope you will share within your own networks. If you are not able to act on these suggestions without leaving home, please take no action. We support the government advice to 'Stay Home and Save Lives.'

#### **Reporting Safeguarding Concerns**

Please continue to follow the process outlined in our Safeguarding Policy for reporting concerns. The Basketball England safeguarding service is still operating and available to help with any information and guidance you may need. The best way to contact the team is through our email, [safeguardingbasketball@basketballengland.co.uk](mailto:safeguardingbasketball@basketballengland.co.uk). If for any reason you believe a child or adult to be in immediate danger, please call the police.

When social distancing measures begin to be reduced, it may be that children and adults at risk begin to talk about their experiences during isolation. While the majority of conversations will raise no concerns, it is worth remembering how we should respond if a child or adult at risk talks to us about a concern.

Please see the following link which includes information, advice and posters which can be shared with staff and volunteers: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2019/let-children-know-you-re-listening/>

## **Reaching out to your members**

There are many steps we can take to reach out to children and adults at risk to help them through this time.

We know that not all children are safe from abuse and neglect at home. Teachers, sports coaches and youth leaders see children every week, and develop relationships that can help them spot when a child may be at risk. This can be essential to a child receiving the right support and protection from statutory agencies. In the current climate, these safeguards have been removed and there is an increased risk to children of abuse and neglect with the closure of schools and sports clubs.

As such, we would encourage all clubs and organisations to share the following contact details whenever possible:

### **Childline**

Tel: 0844 892 0220 (9am-Midnight)

Web: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### **The NSPCC**

Tel: 0808 800 5000 (9-6 Mon-Fri)

Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Web: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline/>

### **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command**

Web: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

## **Online safety**

At present, there is an increased risk of child sexual abuse, peer-to-peer abuse and risks related to youth produced sexual imagery when going online. Basketball England will continue to update our website with useful information for staff, volunteers and parents to help us keep children safe in the digital world.

The following link can be shared with parents and is a good resource for support and advice: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

## **Mental Health**

We know that young people may experience anxiety and stress caused by isolation, excessive screen time, worries around academic work, worries about fitness and performance, missed sporting opportunities or simply by exposure to worsening news reports. We also know that, sadly, many people will be affected by loved ones being ill or passing away. There are lots of organisations providing help and support for children and their parents such as NSPCC, MIND, Emerging Minds and Young Minds.

Here are a few links that may be of use:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/managing-your-anxiety>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/feelings-emotions/when-someone-dies/>

<https://emergingminds.org.uk/recommended-resources-supporting-children-and-young-people-with-worries-and-anxiety-links/>

[https://emergingminds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19\\_advice-for-parents-and-carers\\_20.3\\_.pdf](https://emergingminds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19_advice-for-parents-and-carers_20.3_.pdf)

### **Increased victimisation of adults at risk**

Unfortunately, we now know that social distancing measures place some individuals at higher risk either of isolation and neglect, or of domestic violence and other forms of abuse. We also know that some people are exploiting the Covid-19 crisis to scam at-risk individuals. We are hearing reports of telephone, email and in-person scams.

The Ann Craft Trust has advice on their website to support in protecting at-risk individuals: <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/safeguarding-and-the-coronavirus-info-tips-and-resources/>

Remember, if you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for police.

Respond immediately to any concerns regarding online bullying or other breaches of Basketball England Code of Ethics and Conduct.

### **Communicating with members via social media**

There are lots of resources online that can assist with correctly communicating with members via social media.

Ensure staff and volunteers keep young people and themselves safe by sharing the Basketball England Appropriate Communication and Social Media policies, which can be found here: <https://www.basketballengland.co.uk/safeguarding/guidance-templates/>

For coaches running sessions online, please see the guidance in the link below. This relates to schools, but is also applicable for sporting organisations: <https://support.safeguardingschools.co.uk/article/37-remote-teaching-and-learning-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

The NSPCC has also issued guidance on remote teaching and coaching: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/best-practice/remote-teaching-and-coaching/>

### **Policies, procedures and training**

Many governing bodies are advising clubs that if staff are well and feel in a positive frame of mind, they could use this time to review your Safeguarding policy, websites and recruiting procedures. If you are not working at present and can spare the time, it is also a good opportunity for Continual Professional Development (CPD). In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic, there have been some changes to face-to-face safeguarding training that are detailed later in this statement.

Here are some useful links to get you started:

Continual Professional Development; Safeguarding: <https://www.basketballengland.co.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-research/>

iCoachKids: <https://www.icoachkids.eu/>

UK Coaching: <https://www.ukcoaching.org>

NSPCC: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/?type=1169>

You could use this time to consider how the 'Voice of the Child' is heard in your club or organisation which helps to make a safer, happier environment for kids. The NSPCC have an online course which Welfare Officers may be interested in watching: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/im-involved-e-learning-course/>

Please feedback to the Safeguarding Team if you have any concerns, suggestions or ideas which may support the welfare of the basketball community at this time.

## **CHANGES ANNOUNCED BY THE DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS)**

The current social distancing measures pose an issue for original documentation being checked as part of the DBS verifying process. The Disclosure and Barring Service have provided some guidance which states that where there are 'urgent' cases, documentation may be checked via video link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines>

Basketball England has decided that if a member wishes to work with children (online) at this time and has not submitted a DBS to us in the past, individuals must continue to apply for a DBS now. Basketball England staff will assist with the verification of documents for these individuals.

If you are a current member who has submitted a DBS to Basketball England in the past but this has now expired or is due to expire, we request that you start your DBS application but do not contact verifiers while the social distancing restrictions are in place.

The Safeguarding Team will continue to assess the situation and when face-to-face verification process can resume, we will update members and let you know when you can continue with the verification stage.

## **CHANGES TO FACE-TO-FACE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

While some staff and volunteers may not be able to complete training now, some may find they have extra time for professional development.

**We would encourage all members who need to complete Safeguarding Training for the next season to do so now. This will give Basketball England time to upload documents ready for licensing in 2020/21.**

Basketball England have always recommended that individuals working with children complete a face-to-face safeguarding course, rather than an online course. UK Coaching have been quick to respond to the current Covid-19 situation and are now offering 'online classrooms' for Safeguarding and Protecting Children training.

The cost for the course is typically £30pp or £400 for a group booking of 15. The course is two and a half hours and candidates must be over 18.

<https://www.ukcoaching.org/courses/search?courseid=12288&distance=25&order=soonest&bookableonly=false>

Some providers of Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses are offering discounts, such as Sport Structures. They are offering a 10% discount until 18 May using the code "BBALL10". The link to the workshops can be [found here](#).

Wessex Coach Education have agreed to offer a 10% discount for Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses for the month of May for Basketball England members:

<https://www.facebook.com/wessexcoacheducation>

If members choose to complete this training now, we will ensure the expiry date is set for the end of the 2022/23 season. The online classrooms are a temporary measure and face-to-face courses will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

In addition, the NSPCC are reviewing the Time to Listen course for Welfare Officers and are hoping to have a virtual course available from May/June 20.

## **END OF SEASON SURVEY FOR WELFARE OFFICERS**

We are pleased to be carrying out the largest survey of Welfare Officers to date, as the introduction of our new membership system has provided us with the opportunity to reach more than 1000 welfare officers. This will provide invaluable feedback for the service and allow us to also assess the competence and confidence of those in these important roles.

We have a £30 shopping voucher to give to one randomly-chosen winner as well, so get in touch and provide us with your feedback.

We have already sent this survey to all the Welfare Officers on our membership system and also those listed in the NBL Handbook. If your club or organisation didn't receive this email or it wasn't forwarded on to you, please inform the Safeguarding Team so we can make sure we have the right contact information for all Welfare Officers.

The survey can be found here: <https://basketballengland.wufoo.com/forms/ql0le8jOh016ps/>