



CLUB WELFARE OFFICER

The Club Welfare Officer (CWO) is a key designated role. It is essential to ensure that the club has someone trained and supported to handle any welfare issue that may arise and all clubs are advised to appoint at least one Club Welfare Officer (also referred to as a Club Safeguarding Officer).

Safeguarding involves not only protecting young people and Adults at Risk, but educating club members on the latest good practice guidelines and what to do if they have concerns that abuse may be taking place elsewhere in someone's life.

They do not need to be a Safeguarding 'expert' as that is the role of the statutory agencies (Police and Children's Social Care). A club may appoint more than one Club Welfare Officer. The Club Welfare Officer needs to be supported by their club's management and ideally should have a formal role on the club management committee, or have a clear line of communication with the committee.

The CWO should complete basic Safeguarding training, and then go on to complete a Time to Listen course which provides enhanced information about the role of a CWO. The following are core knowledge, skills and tasks for the role:

KNOWLEDGE

- Basketball England's Safeguarding Policies and practices including Code of Ethics & Conducts, Duty of Care guidance etc.
- Basic knowledge of core legislation, government guidance and national framework for child protection
- Knowledge of club's role and responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of children and young people and Adults at Risk
- Basic knowledge of roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies (Children's Social Care, Police and Local Safeguarding Children Boards)
- Understanding of local arrangements and contacts for reporting procedures
- Basketball's role and responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Familiarisation with Basketball England's and the club's policy and procedures related to Adults at Risk
- Awareness of equality issues and safeguarding
- Basic knowledge of the different forms of abuse that can occur and how abusers target and 'groom' organisations to abuse children and Adults at Risk
- Boundaries of the role of club welfare officer

SKILLS

- Child focused
- Able to look after the welfare of all adults, particularly any Adults at Risk.
- Approachable
- Basic administration and computer skills
- Basic advice and support-provision skills
- Ability to maintain records
- Communication skills, including use of social media
- Confidentiality – only discussing concerns with people who need to know
- Act as a local source of advice on safeguarding matters
- Ability to provide information about local resources
- Ability to promote Basketball England's and Club's policies, procedures and resources

TASKS

- Promote and raise of awareness of the benefits of safeguarding for all at the club
- Assist the organisation to fulfil its responsibilities to safeguard children and Adults at Risk at club level
- Assist the organisation to implement its safeguarding plan at club level
- Implement the club's reporting and recording procedures
- Work with others in the club to ensure a positive child-centred environment
- To ensure children and Adults at Risk have a voice in the club, and to promote their engagement in decision making
- Assist club members with welfare related issues including advising on training and vetting checks
- Assist club members to understand their duty of care
- Maintain and publicise contact details for local Children's Social Care, the Police and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Act as the first point of contact for staff, volunteers, parents, children and all other participants
- Where concerns about someone's welfare, poor practice or abuse are identified, to act as the first point of contact with the Lead Safeguarding Officer at Basketball England
- Advise the club's management group/committee on welfare
- Ensure adherence to the club's safeguarding training

- Ensure confidentiality is maintained
- Promote anti-discriminatory practice
- Willing to attend additional training and adapt generic templates for use within the club
- Ability to implement and promote Basketball England's and the club's policy, procedures, and resources within the club
- Assist Basketball England to fulfil its responsibilities to safeguard young people and Adults at Risk involved in basketball