

ESSEX CHESS ASSOCIATION

OUR SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

to children, young people and vulnerable adults

Who is responsible during the Association's activities for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults ?

- everyone; members, participants, event and team organisers, Safeguarding Officer, Executive, parents, guardians, carers, visitors and guests alike.

What is Safeguarding about ?



How is it achieved ?

- by providing a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults
- by creating a culture which recognises and understands the importance of safeguarding including listening to and discussing with children, young people and vulnerable adults

- by identifying children or vulnerable adults who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, both outside and at home and referring immediately any concerns to local authority social care services
- by preventing unsuitable people from working with children or vulnerable adults
- by having systems and processes that ensure children and vulnerable adults are kept safe and allow for poor and unsafe practice to be challenged
- by identifying instances in which there are grounds for concern about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult and initiating or taking appropriate action to keep them safe
- by contributing to effective partnership working between all those involved with providing safeguarding services for children and vulnerable adults.

What is the Association's Child Protection Policy ?

- supervision is the responsibility of parents and guardians at all times
- the policy sets minimum accompaniment requirements according to age of the Junior Player
- photographers must be registered and permission for photography sought
- this is contained within the detailed safeguarding policy, which is supplemented by procedures and accompanied by guidance documents for Junior Players, Parents and Guardians and Event Organisers

Do other organisations have Safeguarding Policies affecting the Association's activities ?

- Wanstead House Community Association (conditions of hire) “WHCA”
- Southern Counties Chess Union (Union stages of County Championships)
- English Chess Federation (National stages of County Championships)

What are the safeguarding responsibilities of Members, the Executive and the Safeguarding Officer ?

Responsibilities of Members and participants in the Association's events

- safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone at the Association, members, team players, team captains, tournament organisers, participants, parents, guardians, carers, visitors and guests alike
- raise any safeguarding concern in respect of a child, young person (under 18) or vulnerable adult with the event organiser or Safeguarding Officer
- look out for the welfare of all at the Association and particularly children, young persons and vulnerable adults whilst at the Association or during our activities
- treat all persons at the Association or participating in the Association's activities with respect
- consistently display high standards of behaviour; bullying is not acceptable
- do not use or tolerate inappropriate language
- do not discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social class or lack of ability.

Specific Responsibilities of the Executive

- approving Association policy and its implementation within the Association
- adding new procedures as required and informing its organisers, officials, members, participants

and volunteers of changes, which includes advertising them as appropriate

- to monitor which organisers, officials and volunteers (not members) have been statutory checked (currently enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks) and have had safeguarding training and advise those who may need either due to their role in the Association's activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults
- supervising those with safeguarding roles (e.g. Safeguarding Officer)
- acting on whistle-blowing
- addressing membership and appointment issues or concerns referred by the Chairman under the advice of the Safeguarding Officer or otherwise
- providing corporate responses to any safeguarding issue supporting the Safeguarding Officer as appropriate
- to ensure an audit is undertaken (by way of periodic monitoring and review by the Safeguarding Officer) to ensure that safeguards are being implemented and are effective and that risk is being managed.

Specific Responsibilities of the Chairman of the Executive

- ensuring that Safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed annually by the Executive.
- actioning and/or approving safeguarding disclosure risk assessments including restrictions on activities and suspensions from roles or membership referred by the Safeguarding Officer
- notifying disclosure concerns to parents or guardians having regard to the safety of all Members and participants referred by the Safeguarding Officer
- convening Executive and/or General meetings to address safeguarding concerns as required

In the event that the Chairman is either a) unavailable or b) compromised these functions would fall to be exercised by the President of the Association.

Specific Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The legislation requires this role at senior board level in organisations which work with children. The Executive is the Association's equivalent. The Association does not at the present time work with children. This is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future as the Essex Junior Chess Association organises chess for junior players in the County. However as the Association runs events which are open to junior players there is a practical operational reason for having such an Officer on the Executive. Further the English Chess Federation provides for this role under its policy and compliance with the ECF policy is a condition of the Association's public liability insurance.

Under the Association's policy this role is incorporated within that of its Safeguarding Officer.

The Designated Lead is responsible for:

- taking leadership responsibility on the Executive for the Association's safeguarding arrangements
- ensuring a clear line of accountability for the provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- ensuring that all issues concerning safety and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend the Association's events or participate in teams run by the Association are properly dealt with through policies, procedures and administrative systems.
- ensuring arrangements are in place for child protection/safe guarding training
- ensuring arrangements are in place for child protection supervision including Disclosure

and Barring Service applications and checks

- being the point of contact for other safeguarding agencies in respect of raised concerns
- having familiarity with reporting procedures of the relevant local authorities social care services and making decisions to refer concerns to those agencies

Specific Responsibilities of the Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding Officer is responsible for:

- providing safeguarding advice and support to organisers, officials, volunteers, participants and Members
- ensuring that safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults remains a priority in all of the Association's activities
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- The English Chess Federation safeguarding policy states that a legal background or safeguarding experience is recommended for this role.

Elected Post of Safeguarding Officer of the Association

A detailed job description is appended to the Association's safeguarding policy. It has been adapted for the Association from that annexed to the English Chess Federation's safeguarding policy and incorporates the responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

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