Basingstoke Town Community Football Club

FOOTBALL CLUB SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Basingstoke Town Community Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person directly connected with the club and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that those aged 16/17 years-of-age are legally defined as children and therefore we have a responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. As such we subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

Basingstoke Town Community Football Club endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their; age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

Basingstoke Town Community Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Basingstoke Town Community Football Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook **TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook**) apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

3. We endorse and adopt The FA's Safer Recruitment guidelines and we will:
   - Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves;
   - Request identification documents;
   - As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them;
   - Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone; and
   - Where eligible require an FA-accepted DBS enhanced with barred list Check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

All current **Basingstoke Town Community Football Club** members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers and physiotherapists, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.

It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS Process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of a club official who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of **Basingstoke Town Community Football Club**, guidance will be sought from the County FA.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

Basingstoke Town CommunityFootball Club supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy (as described in this paragraph), which requires any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing **Safeguarding@TheFA. com** or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

Basingstoke Town Community Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

5. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to access our anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported in accordance with paragraph 6 below. In cases of serious bullying the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer may be contacted.

6. Everyone who works or volunteers with children is responsible and accountable for the way in which they behave around and towards them and every child has a right to be treated with respect and dignity. We always require adults within our club to exhibit acceptable behaviour. We adopt The FAs 'Acceptable Behaviours When Working With Young People; Guidance for Grassroots Football (5.7) available here.

   Codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by our Club. To police these codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances.

7. In this Club, Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option and if anyone is worried about a child it is important that they report their concerns to the Club Welfare Officer (if there is one) or a member of the Club committee, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:

   - The Club Welfare Officer (if there is one) ("CWO") or a member of the Club committee will manage poor practice and where necessary seek advice from the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO).
   - The CWO or a member of the Club committee will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
   - We will ensure that if the child needs immediate medical treatment that we take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.

- The CWO (Adult Teams) or a member of the Club committee will keep records of the actions taken and keep the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer informed.

  The CWO (Adult Teams) can be contacted as follows:

  - Name: **John Gaston**
  - Contact Details: 077820379400

- If the CWO or a member of the Club committee is not available at any time, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members should be aware that they can:

  - Contact the CFA DSO directly;
  - Contact The FA's Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863** or **Safeguarding@TheFA.com**;
  - Contact the Police or Children's Social Care; and/or
  - Call the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 Monday – Friday 10:00 – 16:00 or text 88858 or email **help@nspcc.org.uk**

Basingstoke Town Community Football Club Committee understands and accepts our collective responsibility to adhere to our safeguarding children policy and procedures. We commit to ensuring our members are aware of and have access to our policies.

Signed:

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chairperson	**Jack Miller**	J Miller	14/03/2025
Secretary	**Katie Oliver**	KJ Oliver	14/03/2025
Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams)	**John Gaston**	J F Gaston	14/03/2025

- The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (including the anti-bullying policy) are available via: **TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework**
- The FAs Safer Recruitment guidance is available via: **TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks**