

# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

## General

1.1 Our mission "to provide an opportunity for children of both sexes to play football in a safe structured and friendly environment" has meant that Central F.C. has always had a strong commitment to protecting the welfare and interests of all the young people entrusted to our care on match days and for training sessions.

1.2 Our affiliation to Devon FA requires us to have a formal Child Protection Policy. Our guiding principals already state that the club will organise itself in every aspect of play. Management and administration in the best interests of the young people. Therefore this Policy Statement formally sets out the way in which Central F.C. will approach Child Protection issues.

## Rights and responsibilities

2.1 Children have a right to expect that the club will protect them from physical, sexual and emotional harm or neglect at all times. In any conflict of interest, this right supersedes all other rights and responsibilities listed below.

2.2 Children therefore have a right to expect that every adult involved in Central F.C. - parent, manager, trainer, helper, official - will see child protection as their responsibility.

2.3 Parents have a right to expect appropriate behaviour toward their children) from any manager, trainer, helper or any other official entrusted with the care of their children) for the temporary period of training or match play.

2.4 Parents have a right to expect that any manager, trainer, helper or any other official entrusted with the care of their children) for the temporary period of training or match play will do all within their ability and power to prevent abuse from another party.

2.5 Managers, trainers, helpers and any other official entrusted with the care of the children) have a right to expect that parents will reasonably co-operate with requests on dropping or collecting child(ren) at designated times and places.

2.6 Managers, trainers, helpers or any other official entrusted with the care of the child(ren) have a right to expect that Central F.C. will deal appropriately with any accusation of abuse made against them from whatever source.

## Setting the Policy

3.1 The club will be guided at all times by advice from the Police, Social Services, it's Solicitors or any other statutory body in all matters relating to child protection issues.

3.2 The club agrees to be bound by any procedures, both legal and disciplinary, set out by the Devon FA in relation to child protection issues.

3.3 The Chairman will liaise with the Community Police Officer for St. Leonard's to ensure that child protection issues receive the attention and priority set out in our guiding principles.

## Our Policy Framework

4. i The club acknowledges that speed of action and exchange of full information in cases of abuse is often paramount. The issue of confidentiality is always secondary to the issue of the protection of any child from abuse.

4. 2 All officials, managers, trainers, helpers will be vetted for offences against children through the Community Police Officer or the FA

4. 3 The club recognises that it may be necessary to develop more thorough and specific investigatory and / or disciplinary procedures than set out in 7.2 below. At present the Chairman has considerable discretion in specific investigatory and / or disciplinary procedures: although he/she must be guided by any existing principles, policy and procedures, coupled with appropriate advice from the Football Association/NSPCC Child Protection Helpline and always acting in the best interests of the child(ren).

4. 4 The Club is committed to providing appropriate training and support in pursuance of the Child Protection Policy.

4, 5 A named Child Protection Officer is appointed to the Committee.

## Specific Procedures - Matches and Training Events

5. 1 No match or training event must proceed without at least two adults present. This is for both health and safety, as well as child protection, issues. Cancellation must supersede any other consideration e.g. league sanctions over failure to fulfill a fixture.

5. 2 suspicious spectators at training events/match days should be challenged by a minimum of two Club representatives. Again a Club official must be informed as soon as possible after the incident if such a challenge has occurred, as it is important to build up a log of incidents.

5. 3 Managers permission should be sought from anyone wishing to take photographs before, during or after training events / match play. Names should not accompany photographs in media articles.

## Specific Procedures - Appropriate Behaviour

6. 1 It is the duty of the Team manager to immediately inform the Chair of any trainers, coaches or helpers who join the team. The Chair must ensure that such persons fill in an FA Vetting form, that official identification is seen by themselves or a designated member of the Committee and that the form is sent to the FA.

6. 2 Managers, coaches, trainers and helpers must consider carefully how they conduct themselves in front of children. They must reflect on their language, use of physical contact, being alone etc. This could form a useful discussion from time to time at adult team managers meetings.

## Specific Procedures - The Duty to Investigate

7. 1 If anyone has concerns at any time, they must immediately bring the matter to the attention of the Named Child Protection Officer. If the N.C.P.O, cannot be contacted / is not available, then advice should be sought from The Football Association / NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000. A Club official should be informed as soon as possible.

7.2 The Chairman has a duty to conduct an immediate internal investigation into any issue of alleged child abuse, and to take the action s/he thinks appropriate and timely in the circumstances, and on the fullest information available. External advice should be sought on the Helpline. This may include the need to suspend any adult member of the Club during a period of investigation. In line with the principle set out in 2.6 the Club will ensure that it finds the appropriate way to support any individual accused of abuse pending and/or during any internal or external investigation.

## Review of Policy and Procedure

8. 1 Child protection issues will be regularly reviewed (no less that twice a year) by the Committee of Management; and always if there is a reported and investigated incident; and in the light of any other subsequent legislation and advice.

8. 2 The Chairman will always report on this topic at the AGM.

Policy reviewed November 2001

Named Child Protection Officer – Glenn Hunter

The FA/NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000