

## CPSU Update – July 06

### Working Together to Safeguard Children (revised 2006) HM Government

Working Together to Safeguard Children is a key guidance document for all organisations providing services for or working with children and young people. It sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Part I of the document comprises statutory guidance, while Part II is non-statutory practice guidance.

1.18 **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment (abuse and neglect)
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development; and
- Ensuring that children are growing in circumstances consistent with the provision of effective care; and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

1.20 **Child Protection** is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

#### **Key sections for sports organisations, staff and volunteers:**

1.16 For those children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm, joint working is essential, to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child(ren) and – where necessary – to bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against children. **All agencies and professionals should:**

- Be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect
- Be alert to the risks which individuals abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children
- Share and help to analyse information so that an assessment can be made of the child's needs and circumstances
- Contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote the child's welfare
- Take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans; and
- Work co-operatively with parents unless this is inconsistent with ensuring the child's safety.

2.151 **Organisations in the voluntary and private sectors that work with children need to have the arrangements described in paragraph 2.8 (see below) in place** in the same way as organisations in the public sector, and need to work effectively with LSCBs. Paid and volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and how they should respond to child protection concerns in line with guidance (summarised in *What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused.*)

2.8 To fulfil their commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children **all organisations that provide services for children, or work with children, need to have in place:**

- Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children explicitly stated in strategic policy documents;
- A clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare;
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- Recruitment and human resources management procedures that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people including arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers;

- Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers;
- Arrangements to ensure that all staff undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively, and keep this up to date by refresher training at regular intervals; and that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children, are made aware of the establishment's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and their responsibilities for that;
- Have policies in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (for example, pupils/students), including a child protection policy, and procedures that are in accordance with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures;
- Have arrangements in place to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information;
- A culture of listening to and engaging in dialogue with children – seeking their views in ways appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of those both in individual decisions and the establishment or development of services; and
- Appropriate whistle blowing procedures and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

### **Sport, Culture and Leisure Services**

2.23 Sport and cultural services designed for children and families such as libraries, play schemes and play facilities, parks, and gardens, sport and leisure centres, events and attractions, museums and arts centres are directly provided, purchased or grant aided by Local Authorities, the commercial sector, and by community and voluntary organisations. Many such activities take place in premises managed by authorities or their agents.

2.24 Staff, volunteers and contractors who provide these services will have various degrees of contact with children who use them, and appropriate arrangements will need to be in place. These should include:

- Procedures for staff and others to report concerns that they may have about the children they meet that are in line with “What to do if you are worried a child is being abused” and LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board) procedures, as well as arrangements such as those described above; and
- Appropriate codes of practice for staff, particularly sports coaches, such as those issued by national governing bodies of sport, the Health and Safety Executive, or the Local Authority. Sports organisations can also seek advice on child protection issues from the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) which has been established as a partnership between the NSPCC and Sport England.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) can be downloaded from:  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/workingtogether/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/workingtogether/)

### **Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)**

Every local area now needs to have an LSCB in place. Guidance on local safeguarding children boards forms chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children. For further information visit:  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/workingtogether/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/workingtogether/)

### **Vetting and Barring Scheme**

The Richard Inquiry Report, made a number of recommendations about changes to the way in which applicants for posts which involve working with children will be vetted. In January 2006 the Secretary of State for Education announced legislation to introduced a new centralised vetting and barring system for people whose jobs will bring them into contact with children and vulnerable adults. The ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill’ (which relates to both children and vulnerable adults) is passing through parliament and is anticipated to become law before the new scheme is planned to be in operation in 2007/08.

Further information about the planned vetting and barring scheme is available at:  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/vettingandbarring/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/vettingandbarring/)

## Information Sharing

Sharing information is vital for early intervention to ensure that children and young people get the services they require. It is also essential to protect children and young people from suffering harm from abuse or neglect, and to prevent them from offending. There has been confusion and uncertainty on the part of many professionals and volunteers working with children in all sectors about when, how, and with whom concerns about the welfare or safety of children may be shared with others.

Following consultation the government has developed and published guidance for immediate use by all practitioners who work with children or young people - employed or volunteers, working in the public, private or voluntary sectors. Information Sharing: Practitioners' Guide (2006) comprises three main parts:

- Core guidance - giving practitioners clear practical guidance, drawing on experience and the public consultation
- A set of case examples which illustrate information sharing situations
- A summary of the laws affecting information sharing in respect of children and young people

For further information, or to download the guidance, go to:  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/informationsharing/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/informationsharing/)

## Common Core of Skills and Knowledge

The Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce sets out the basic skills and knowledge needed by people (including volunteers) whose work brings them into regular contact with children, young people and families. It will enable multi-disciplinary teams to work together more effectively in the interests of the child.

The skills and knowledge are described under six main headings:

- Effective communication and engagement with children, young people and families
- Child and young person development
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child
- Supporting transitions
- Multi-agency working
- Sharing information

Over time the government expects everyone working with children, young people and families (including those working in a paid or voluntary capacity within sport) to be able to demonstrate a basic level of competence in the six areas of the Common Core. In the future, the Common Core will form part of qualifications for working with children, young people and families and it will act as a foundation for training and development programmes run by employers and training organisations. When further guidance has been issued on the application of the Common Core for different parts of the children's workforce, all safeguarding and child protection training will be reviewed and, if necessary revised to ensure the requirements of the Common Core are met.

Visit [www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore) for further information on, or to download the Common Core of Skills and Knowledge.

## CRB

### Registered Bodies Reduction

CRB have begun the process of reducing the number of Registered Bodies based on a minimum requirement of 100 disclosure requests per year. This has implications for smaller GBs and some CSPs. Alternative arrangements through Umbrella Bodies will need to be made, and all organisations need to consider the possible cost implications of this.

## Portability

The CRB has now withdrawn its online portability service. CPSU will shortly issue a briefing paper on arrangements to port disclosures, and the safeguarding steps that will be needed to minimise any risks associated with this process.

Nick Slinn CPSU

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