

THE ROLE OF THE COUNTY SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

The County Safeguarding Officer is a point of contact ONLY for Club Safeguarding Officers (CSOs) when concerns are raised at Club Level or from within a league. Occasionally they should also be available as a contact for Clubs, should someone feel they cannot approach their own CSO.

If a county Safeguarding Officer is made aware of a serious safeguarding concern, they should, in line with EN Safeguarding Reporting Procedures,

- consider the concern,
- support the CSO or other person to report the matter to police, social services and/or police
- advise the CSO/club what to do next
- and/or liaise with the EN Lead Safeguarding Officer and/or Regional Safeguarding officer.

The county safeguarding officer is primarily not there to receive reports of, record or investigate serious or repeated instances of abuse or poor practice: that is for the England Netball safeguarding team to do.

On occasions the England Netball safeguarding team may ask that the County officer carries out enquiries and interventions with clubs or individuals to resolve low level or isolated incidents of concern.

As a guide:

- 1) if the concern obviously relates to safeguarding the issue should be reported to England Netball. This can be done directly by anyone but commonly a club safeguarding officer.
- 2) If it relates to harm of a child or adult at risk in their home or community (outside netball) a report should be made to your local children's or adult's social care team (it may be called a MASH or similar). Feel free to contact England Netball safeguarding team for advice on how to manage this concerns though.
- 3) Obviously if there is a risk of immediate harm or a crime is involved the police should be contacted.
- 4) If it is not clear whether or not it is a safeguarding matter the county safeguarding officer can offer advice

The County Safeguarding Officer is responsible for supporting CSOs in relation to giving advice about the Wellbeing, Safeguarding and Protection of all members, promoting good practice and Safeguarding within Clubs and Leagues and to work with others towards the safest and most inclusive environments.

The County safeguarding Officer should record all contacts made with clubs and keep an up to date list of all club CSOs.

All Counties should have a designated County Safeguarding Officer.

THE PERSON

- needs to be comfortable being well known in the County and to be contacted by CSOs when required
- They need to support EN Cultures and work with others towards achieving a fun, enjoyable and safe experience.

- They are passionate about creating an environment that enables Children and Adults at risk to thrive within Netball.
- They will NOT be a Club Safeguarding Officer themselves, in order to prevent any conflict of interest. Ideally, The County Safeguarding Officer needs to remain as impartial as possible.

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Approachable and Enthusiastic
- Respectful, Empathetic and Unbiased
- Professional, Reliable, Committed and Helpful
- Engaging, Supportive, Caring and Compassionate
- Friendly and a Good Listener
- Organised, and able to create and maintain records appropriately
- Trustworthy, Tactful, and aware of the need for Confidentiality

PREFERRED KNOWLEDGE

- Awareness of the Local Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding network, Police and Social Services Contact Details
- Aware of role of LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children’s Board), LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) and Inter-Agency Child Protection procedures.
- Knowledge of Core Legislation and Government Guidance on Safeguarding
- Understand Poor Practice and Abuse (behaviour that is harmful or has potentially negative impact on welfare and the persons enjoyment of Netball)

ROLE REQUIREMENTS

- Be a member of EN, with Position details recorded on ENgage
- Have an England Netball ENHANCED DBS Check

ESSENTIAL TRAINING

Every County Safeguarding Officer must complete the following actions in relation to Safeguarding and ensure they renew their training every three years. A County Safeguarding Officer will need to evidence completion of Safeguarding training.

- (1) Read the EN Safeguarding Young People in Netball Policy ([Link](#)), Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy ([Link](#)), Reporting a Safeguarding Concern Procedure ([Link](#)), Club Safeguarding Guidance ([Link](#)), DBS Guidance ([Link](#)), and Codes of Conduct ([link](#))
- (2) Attend Safeguarding Training in line with EN Guidance ([Link](#)) both provided by UK Coaching: ‘Safeguarding & Protecting Children’* (SPC) Face to Face Training
‘Time to Listen’* (TTL) Face to Face Training

**The above training must be renewed every 3 years. The renewal can be done by completing the online training, then 3 years later, renewed by completing the face to face. Repeating this cycle every renewal.*

THE ROLE

- To ensure concerns are referred on promptly to the relevant agency when necessary (Local Authority Children’s Board, Adult Social Care, Police, or Ambulance) **see above**
- To ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a ‘need to know’ basis.

- Lead the implementation of EN policies and procedures relating to Safeguarding and Codes of Conduct across the County and develop training and awareness programmes for the policies for all relevant stakeholders.
- Work closely with the Resolution Lead to resolve complaints and uphold the integrity of netball at all levels.
- Work alongside the County Committee to ensure that those working in regulated activity {in the county/region} are appropriately vetted and outcomes are managed and recorded appropriately.
- Signpost those with roles and responsibilities for Children and Adults at Risk to appropriate Safeguarding Training opportunities.
- To sit on the County Management Committee to advise on Child and Adult at Risk safeguarding issues or be in attendance as necessary.
- To educate the members of their County on the Reporting a Safeguarding Concern procedure and good practice in Safeguarding, including the training and DBS status of relevant county volunteers.
- To advise the County on appropriate training for coaches and volunteers based on the EN recommended Safeguarding training requirements.
- Keep GDPR compliant records and feedback any relevant information and trends to the Organisation Committee and England Netball Safeguarding & Welfare Manager as required
- If requested by England Netball safeguarding team – to carry out enquiries and interventions with clubs or individuals to resolve low level or isolated incidents of concern.

It is important to highlight that Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and every volunteer should remain vigilant and challenge any concerning behaviour. It is important to work with others to;

- Assist CSOs to enable information, including policies, reporting procedures and contact details of the Club Safeguarding Officers are visible both in the club setting and online.
- promote awareness of the Codes of Conduct for volunteers, coaches, parents and members (Child and Adult)
- encourage clubs keep up to date records of coaches and volunteers DBS and safeguarding training.

For further information, please contact the Safeguarding Team at EN via besafe@englandnetball.co.uk

Advice of clubs and others: <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding>