



Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

Report from Carol McKeough
SEE Region Safeguarding Officer

I HOPE THAT you have all seen in the SIGBI February News Briefing that the new SIGBI Safeguarding Policy and supporting documents have been published on the SIGBI website.

As the Regional Safeguarding Officer, I have been working with a small SIGBI Working Party of Safeguarding leads, together with the SIGBI Designated Safeguarding Officer, since January 2020 to review and update all the SIGBI Safeguarding documentation.

We have of course had to work remotely and in June, when the 'GoToMeeting' platform let us down, I asked Jane Barnes (SI Medway and Maidstone) to join the working group and from that time we used ZOOM. The Safeguarding Working Group benefitted greatly from Jane's knowledge of safeguarding and her ability to make changes to documents during our meetings.

We focussed our work on making sure that the Safeguarding policy and other documents assisted all SIGBI members to understand what constituted the abuse of a child, young person, or an adult at risk, (unable to protect themselves from harm).

A new addition to the Safeguarding resources is the short video available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/OiXJVQSha9k>. This explains what to do if you think something is not right. The message is, "If you see something, say something".

One of the questions that I was asked most frequently was, how to identify if someone is being abused. A document called 'Types and Indicators of Abuse' is included in the suite of new Safeguarding documents.

It was disappointing that the SIGBI Board at their January meeting did not mandate clubs to have a Safeguarding Lead/Link person. They considered this to be too onerous for clubs to be able to recruit and that having a Regional Safeguarding Officer should suffice. However, Federation President Johanna did say that where clubs had already recruited Safeguarding Leads/Links that they could continue.

As you will know we had already recruited in the South East England Region, so I have written to all 10 of our Club Safeguarding Lead/Links hoping that they will feel able to continue in their voluntary role. I value their contribution to work with me in my capacity as the Regional Safeguarding Officer to support the implementation of the 'Safeguarding Awareness' in our clubs and to get the message across to every member of our Region, that 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility'.

I consider that the role of the Club Safeguarding Lead/Link is important and part of good practice as they are closer to their club members who are likely to feel more comfortable talking to them of any safeguarding concerns as a 'first step'.

Plans are being made to meet with the Club Safeguarding Lead/Links via Zoom during March/April as part of the support network and to discuss arrangements for holding Safeguarding workshops as we recognise Safeguarding is an important issue.



Short Video - 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility'