

Our Ref: CJ/JF

Your Ref:

2 December 2016



Nottinghamshire
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN Board

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Dear Headteacher

Sports Coaches

You will of course be aware of the current national publicity around the abuse of young footballers by their coaches. In view of this, I felt it was timely to remind you of current guidance aimed at keeping children and young people safe in this regard. Additionally, given the level of publicity, you may expect to receive enquiries from parents/carers who may seek reassurances that your school has robust measures in place to safeguard children and young people taking part in such activities organised through school. This may therefore be an opportune moment for you to review your own school policies.

Keeping children and young people safe whilst engaging in sports coaching organised through the school needs to be seen in the context of a whole school approach to safeguarding. For the majority of schools no further action other than to take note of this letter will be necessary. However, for those schools which have not as yet completed the 'SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN EDUCATION AUDIT CHECKLIST 2016/17', you will find it provides a useful prompt to examine your own school policies. If you have not already done so please return it by **16 December 2016** to the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer at Meadow House, Littleworth, Mansfield NG18 2TA or send a scanned copy to philip.walmsley@nottscc.gov.uk.

In summary, in relation to a coaching or sports training role, anyone undertaking such a role should have been subject to a safer recruitment process. This should include the completion of a satisfactory DBS check. Anyone having access to children without such a check should be supervised at all times. In addition to safer recruitment practices, other important elements to consider include:

- All staff being suitably trained so they are aware of what to look for and what to do in relation to any emerging child protection concern.
- Codes of conduct being in place for coaching staff and volunteers.

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Working in Partnership to Safeguard Children & Young People

- Children and young people and parents/carers being aware of the codes of conduct.
- Children and young people and parents/carers knowing who to go to should they have a concern.

As I have said, this should not be seen as separate to but rather part of a whole school approach to safeguarding and it will only be through this approach that we will keep our children safe. Should you require any further advice or guidance in relation to this subject please contact either:

Cheryl Stollery (Managing Safeguarding in Education Officer)
cheryl.stollery@nottscc.gov.uk

Eva Callaghan (LADO) eva.callaghan@nottscc.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Few". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Chris Few
Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board
Independent Chair