

# Annual Safeguarding Report for Financial Year 2014-15



## **Preamble**

Active Essex (along with all CSPs and NGBs receiving Sport England funding) is required by Sport England to maintain the Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport standard, which includes having an annual action plan monitored and reviewed by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) of the NSPCC.

Key principles of maintaining the standards is for Active Essex to demonstrate high quality practices in safeguarding, be a good example of these practices to other sports agencies within the county and provide support and advice where possible to the wider sport and safeguarding communities.

## **Implementation Plan**

The 2014-15 Implementation Plan detailed the actions and outcomes for Active Essex in that year. These were set after the annual internal review at the end of the previous year and were agreed with the CPSU as part of the Annual Review at that time. The 2014-15 Implementation Plan was delivered and completed to the greater extent to the satisfaction of both the internal review and external review by CPSU.

The 2015-16 Implementation Plan has been reviewed by the CPSU and is to be submitted to the Active Essex Board for Approval.

## **Designated Safeguarding Staff**

Active Essex's policy is to maintain two Designated Safeguarding Officers. During 2015 the Deputy DSO, Rebecca Jones, left the organisation. Lauren Neve was appointed to fill this role. Jim Messenger remains in the role of Lead DSO.

## **Safeguarding Training**

Lauren Neve undertook the CPSU recommended and provided training course ('Time to Listen') for DSOs in November 2014. Jim Messenger also attended the course as a three-year refresher.

The Active Essex staff all undertook a refresher in internal safeguarding practice as part of the August 2014 team meeting.

Active Essex facilitated the delivery of twenty-five 'Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport' courses for coaches and administrators within Essex during the year, with an attendance of 467 individuals.

### **Incidents and Actions**

There were again very few direct safeguarding concern incidents brought to the attention of Active Essex. Active Essex advice was sought on three occasions:

1. A sports coach reporting a general concern about practices within his local authority
2. A sports provider for schools reporting they had suspended a member of staff for poor practice
3. An ECC Local Authority Designated Officer seeking advice on information received concerning a specific individual involved in delivering sports.

In all cases, the incidents were dealt with and the details and actions of Active Essex recorded.

### **Annual Survey of Providers and Deliverers**

An online survey of providers was carried out in January 2015 which provided useful insight into perceptions of Active Essex's safeguarding practices and informed action for the 2015-16 Implementation Plan. This was an anonymous survey and nobody had to reply. Even so there was a 50% response rate and just under 50% of these indicated that Active Essex had positively impacted their safeguarding provision and practice. There were no negative responses.

### **External Annual Review**

The external annual review with the CPSU took place on 11th February 2015 at the University of Hertfordshire. The CPSU identified no major concerns nor outstanding actions from the previous Implementation Plan. The 2015-16 Implementation Plan also received approval and subsequently a RAG rating of GREEN was awarded to Active Essex for Safeguarding.

*Jim Messenger*  
*Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer*  
*Active Essex County Council*

28<sup>th</sup> April 2015