

# Safeguarding Annual Report



For Financial Year 2015-16

## **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 2015-16 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 2015-16 Implementation Plan was delivered and completed to the satisfaction of both the internal review and external review by CPSU.

## **Designated Safeguarding Staff**

Active Essex's policy is to maintain two Designated Safeguarding Officers. During early 2016 the Deputy DSO, Lauren Neve, changed role within the organisation. Dawn Catley was appointed to fill this role and Melissa Huggins was also appointed as a Trainee Safeguarding Officer. Jim Messenger remains in the role of Lead DSO.

## **Safeguarding Training**

Dawn Catley and Melissa Huggins undertook the CPSU recommended and provided training course ('Time to Listen') for DSOs in April 2016.

Active Essex facilitated the delivery of twenty-four 'Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport' courses for coaches and administrators within Essex during the year, with an attendance of 451 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. Active Essex received a referral of information from the NSPCC regarding an individual in sport who was being investigated by the Police. No action was required by Active Essex. The matter was held on record.
2. An anonymous letter was received by Active Essex making allegations about an individual prominent in local sport. From the scant information it looked unlikely this included any issues with minors or other vulnerable persons. The information was, nonetheless, passed-on to Essex Social Care for their attention and records.
3. On two occasions an ECC Local Authority Designated Officer sought advice on information received concerning specific individual involved in delivering sports. The Active Essex Lead Officer was able to provide information through our own network.

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 February 2016 which has again provided useful. This was an anonymous survey and no party was required to reply. Responses were again positive and indicated that Active Essex is continuing to provide useful information and support for safeguarding in sport. There were no negative responses.

### **External Annual Review**

The external annual review with the CPSU took place on 1st March 2016 at County Hall, Chelmsford. In attendance; Nick Slinn (CPSU), Chris Holmes (Board Member, Active Essex), Jim Messenger (Safeguarding Lead, Active Essex). The CPSU identified no major concerns nor outstanding actions from the previous Implementation Plan. The 2016-17 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*

10<sup>th</sup> July 2016