

Safeguarding Annual Report



For Financial Year 2018-19

Preamble

Active Essex (along with all Active Partnerships and National Governing Bodies of sports 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 sport and physical activity specific support and advice, where possible, to the wider sport and safeguarding communities.

Implementation Plan

The 2018-19 Action 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 2018-19 Action Plan was delivered and completed to the satisfaction of both the internal review and external review by CPSU receiving a Green RAG rating for the Sport England annual report.

Designated Safeguarding Staff

Active Essex's policy is to maintain two Designated Safeguarding Officers and to have additional members also capable of fulfilling this role if possible and/or desirable. Throughout 2018/19 period Jim Messenger remained in the role of Lead DSO, Dawn Emberson as the Deputy DSO and Melissa Huggins as Assistant DSO.

Safeguarding Training

Internal Training: All new staff joining in the year between April 2018 and March 2019 have been through the Active Essex Safeguarding Induction process which ensures a minimum base level of safeguarding understanding and common practice across the team.

External training: Active Essex facilitated the delivery of thirteen 'Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport' courses for coaches and administrators within Essex during the year, with an attendance of 233 individuals.

Incidents and Actions

No major safeguarding concerns were brought to the attention of Active Essex during the year. Active Essex does not generally deal with direct case management of incidents as we operate as an advice and referral agency for more qualified bodies. The Designated Safeguarding Officers were able to advise on three requests for clarification of safeguarding procedures from clubs and organisations.

Policy Review

Active Essex completed the separation of the previous single Safeguarding Policy in to separate documents; Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport, and, Safeguarding Adults in Sport under guidance from CPSU and the National Lead for Safeguarding Adults in Sport. This was undertaken in recognition that legislation for safeguarding of young people and adults in need of support is different and the use of some terminology can be misleading when applied to both. The new, separate policies have subsequently been published through the Active Essex website.

External Annual Review

The external annual review with the CPSU took place on 14th March 2019 at the University of Hertfordshire. In attendance; Denise Williams (CPSU), Jim Messenger (Safeguarding Lead, Active Essex), and via telephone – Rob Hayne (Strategic Lead Business Operations, Active Essex). The CPSU was overall satisfied with the accomplishments of the previous Action Plan. The 2019-20 Action 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

15th June 2019