

Safeguarding Annual Report



For Financial Year 2019-20

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 raising and delivering an annual safeguarding 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.

From 2021 there will be an additional standard for safeguarding adults which will be monitored and reviewed on behalf of Sport England by the Ann Craft Trust.

Action Plan

The 2019-20 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 next Annual Review at that time. The 2019-20 Action Plan was delivered and completed to the satisfaction of both the Active Essex internal review and external review by the CPSU. From 2019-20 the CPSU adopted a new, wider scale of review standard based on a descriptor rather than a RAG rating. The outcome of the Active Essex external review for safeguarding was a rating of 'Very Good' which is one above the equivalent of the previous Green (satisfactory) RAG rating.

Designated Safeguarding Staff

Active Essex's policy is to maintain a minimum of two Designated Safeguarding Officers within the team plus additional members also capable of fulfilling this role, if possible. In 2019 two new members of the Active Essex wider team, Hollie Wood and Stuart Tryhorn, were inducted as Safeguarding Officers to replace Dawn Emberson and Melissa Huggins who's roles had changed within the team. Lead Safeguarding Officer, Jim Messenger, remains in role.

Safeguarding Training

Internal Training: All new staff joining in the year between April 2019 and March 2020 have been through the Active Essex Safeguarding Induction process which provides a minimum base level of safeguarding understanding and common practice across the team. Safeguarding Lead Officers undertook further training specific to their role.

External training: Active Essex facilitated the delivery of ten 'Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport' courses for coaches and administrators within Essex during the year, with an attendance of 163 individuals.

Incidents and Actions

Active Essex does not deal with direct case management of safeguarding incidents, instead operating as a first-level advice and referral agency for more qualified bodies. Active Essex maintains strong links with the LADO service at Essex County Council which can be called-upon for high-quality advice. During 2019-20 financial year, only a single major incident was reported to Active Essex. This was not a sport related incident. The incident, and accompanying documentation, was passed-on securely to the Essex LADO service who confirmed this had been received and was now consequently being dealt with under their authority.

Policy Review

Active Essex carried-out the annual review of policy documents in January 2020. No major changes were required at the time.

External Annual Review

The external annual review with the CPSU took place on 31st March 2019 via a virtual conference. In attendance; Denise Williams (CPSU), Jim Messenger (Safeguarding Lead, Active Essex), Hollie Wood (Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer, Active Essex), Stuart Tryhorn (Safeguarding Officer, Active Essex).

Jim Messenger
Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer
Active Essex

30th June 2020