

Safeguarding Annual Report



For Financial Year 2020-21

3rd November 2021

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 Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport, which includes raising and delivering an annual safeguarding action plan monitored and reviewed by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) of the NSPCC.

Within the period of this action plan the Ann Craft Trust was appointed by Sport England to implement a similar standards framework for safeguarding adults in sport.

A key principle of maintaining these 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.

Action Plan

The 2020-21 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.

Due to challenges occurring through the COVID-19 pandemic, it was agreed by CPSU that Active Partnerships could extend the timeline for review beyond March 2021. Active Essex chose to extend to October 2021 as this would provide time to complete the initial work with Ann Craft Trust towards achieving the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Standards, which was subsequently completed in July 2021.

The 2020-21 Action Plan was delivered and completed to the satisfaction of both the Active Essex internal review and external review by the CPSU; at the review meeting on 8th October 2021 the CPSU adjudged Active Essex to have fully met the standards.

Designated Safeguarding Staff

Active Essex's policy has been to maintain a minimum of two Designated Safeguarding Officers within the team plus additional members also capable of fulfilling this role, if possible. In 2021 three new members of the Active Essex wider team, Cheryl Lomas, Emma Meek and Tom Weller, were inducted as Safeguarding Officers, joining Jim Messenger (lead), Hollie Wood (deputy lead), Stuart Tryhorn and Alexa Cadwallader.

Board of Management Safeguarding Champion

Active Essex maintains an appointed Safeguarding Champion as a member of the Board of Management to ensure safeguarding is always in high profile at strategic decision-making level. During the period of the last Action Plan, John Wood, having come to the end of his service period with Active Essex, stepped down from the role. Current serving board member David Solis was appointed to this role going forward.

Safeguarding Training

Internal Training: All new staff joining between April 2020 and September 2021 completed the Active Essex Safeguarding Induction process which provides a minimum base level of safeguarding understanding and common practice across the team. All Safeguarding Officers undertook further training specific to their role provided by CPSU and the Ann Craft Trust.

External training: The usual programme of safeguarding training facilitated for general public members was postponed through the COVID-19 lockdown period.

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. The period of the last action plan saw an increase in reported incidents, mainly due to Active Essex becoming the county deliverer of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, significantly increasing the number of activities for young people in which we were directly involved. Most of the incidents were minor or precautionary, but all were dealt with promptly and efficiently.

Policy Review

Active Essex carried-out a review of policy documents in July 2021. No major changes were required or made at the time.

External Annual Review

The external annual review with the CPSU took place on 8th October 2021 via a virtual conference. In attendance; Denise Williams (CPSU), Jason Fergus (Head of Active Essex) Jim Messenger (Safeguarding Lead, Active Essex), Hollie Wood (Deputy Lead Safeguarding Officer, Active Essex), Stuart Tryhorn (Safeguarding Officer, Active Essex), Tom Weller (Safeguarding Officer, Active Essex).

The CPSU adjudged Active Essex to have fully met the standards.

Jim Messenger
Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer
Active Essex