

SAFEGUARDING IN 6

LOWER LEVEL CONCERNS



WHAT IS A LOWER LEVEL CONCERN

- Behaviour inconsistent with a code of conduct
- Not serious enough for referral to statutory agencies
- Can relate to behaviour inside or outside of the club or organisation
- Often minor in isolation but may indicate patterns

UNDERSTANDING THE HARM THRESHOLD

- The point where concerns require referral to statutory agencies (e.g. Police/Social Care)
- Threshold may be met if abuse or neglect is suspected, there is a pattern or escalation in behaviour or a crime is suspected
- Think Appropriate behaviour = no action
- Lower Level Concern = record & report
- Harm Threshold = actual or likely significant harm
- IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE

WHY DO LOWER LEVEL CONCERNS MATTER

- Early indicators of poor practice
- Identifies patterns of behaviour
- Prevents escalation to harm
- Promotes a safe open culture
- Highlights training or support needs
- Responding gives a clear message that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

RECOGNISE EARLY

- Use your codes of conduct, safeguarding policy & decision making tool
- Notice boundary crossing
- Be professionally curious
- Encourage early conversations
- Create a culture to share concerns

RESPOND AND REPORT

- Listen, gather & review information
- Timescales matter because details fade & risk can build quickly
- Aim = not to make assumptions but to gather enough information to make an informed decision
- Follow your safeguarding policy
- Report to DSL/Welfare Officer as soon as possible
- If unsure, seek advice

HOW TO DEAL WITH A LOWER LEVEL CONCERN

- All concerns should be recorded on an incident form
- Review all available information
- Track patterns over time
- Apply fair proportionate action in line with your disciplinary procedures
- Outcomes include support/education, mentoring or formal action

EARLY ACTION PREVENTS HARM. RECORD, SHARE AND RESPOND.

ACTIVE ESSEX SPORT WELFARE LEADS

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