



Things to be aware of:

You need training – why....

- Essential for Sport Chaplains to be competent and confident.
- You will be working with adults and children who will be vulnerable for a wide variety of reasons e.g. facing unemployment; risk of losing contract; short or long term disability, fan who may have Alzheimer’s. All of us are vulnerable at some time in our lives.
- Be clear about what should and shouldn’t be challenged, this will help you recognise concerns.
- You need to understand what constitutes good and poor practice

National governing bodies vary as to the safeguarding support given. The law in England and Wales states that U18s are a child and require additional safeguarding because of their age. All young people are assumed to be more vulnerable than adults, but anyone can be vulnerable at any age particularly in performance programmes and elite level sport.

Other issues which potentially increase vulnerability include communication differences (Asperger’s, Autistic spectrum, English as an additional language), disability, mental health issues and social isolation.

Canon (church) law says confessions within a church remain confidential if this conflicts with common law, common law will take priority i.e. safeguarding

What needs to be in place in your sporting community?

- Policies and procedures
- Codes of conduct and practice
- Reporting flow charts are the most practical and important.
- Access to training and learning – this will up skill you and help you recognise concerns.
- Designated safeguarding people with contact details actively promoted to everyone

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Actions – things you need to do

- Attend a recognised basic safeguarding/child protection training event even if you have done it before.
- How? See website for details or email SCUK office.

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SCUK code of practice recommends you should get involved in safeguarding training in the sporting community you serve. If this is not possible there are other options available:

The UK Coaching (formerly Sports Coach UK) Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop (SPC). Workshops can be accessed via ukcoaching.org

Find out the club/course/yard/team etc code of practice and reporting procedures for Safeguarding issues, they should all have one, if not ask why.

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- Find out who the safeguarding lead is in your specific sporting community or in your governing body.
- Get the Safeguarding Officer(s) details (the community of sport you serve).
- Get you sports governing bodies contact details for the individual who is responsible for Safeguarding.
- SCUK Safeguarding Adviser - Gill Camina's contact details:
safeguarding@sportschaplaincy.org.uk Mobile:07860 874809
- Find out the contact details for your local Children's Social Care (Social Services)
- Know the "Childline" and "NSPCC" helpline numbers to access advice or share a concern.
Childline (for children and young people to access confidential support): 0800 1111
NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Be aware that there is a lot of support available – you are not alone. National governing bodies of the different sports vary in their safeguarding support but there are plenty of others who will support you.

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When a person wants to speak to you

- Listen so that you can see how that person is vulnerable and what support they might need in order to move forward.

Know how to:

- **RECOGNISE** - different forms of abuse
- **RESPOND** – what to say and what not to say
- **RECORD** – how, what and when to record what was said to you
- **REPORT** – who to report it to
- **REFLECT** – Know where you can get support, may need and require it.
This is important as it is all our RESPONSIBILITY legally.
Procedure protects and everything that goes wrong is covered by those R's.
Don't ever promise that you will keep a confidence. You may have to share the information appropriately in order to protect the individual or others who might be at risk. Always be honest because it is important to ensure that their trust is never betrayed. Even if this blocks a disclosure, always leave the door open – most of the time they will come back.
- Be alert to the risks related to using any form of electronic communication. Adults, parent/guardians will usually be aware of what any communications online and this increases risks for young people and also for those working with them.
- Never communicate with under 18's on your private Facebook or social media forums.
- A phone should be provided if you need it for your job. Try not to use your own phone but sometimes this is necessary. Forward copy of text's or inform your Safeguarding offices you have made calls to an under 18 – maintain professional behaviour and boundaries at all times.
- Aim to have a none personal eg SCUK email address so that you do not need to use personal emails accounts and everything is linked appropriately to your professional practice.