

# **Water Eaton Youth Association Football Club**

## **Child Protection Policy & Procedure**

### **Child Protection Responsibilities Accepted by Water Eaton Youth AFC (Part of the BYC)**

Sue Simm is the Water Eaton Youth's designated officer with responsibility for child protection matters.

The club has adopted clear and sound policies on confidentiality and will maintain all written evidence about child protection issues in a secure place. It will provide accurate information to the Berks & Bucks F.A and Social Services, where appropriate, normally through the designated CPO officer.

The club will provide training and yearly refresher meetings for coaches / managers to ensure that their skills and expertise are up to date.

The designated Child Protection Officer key responsibilities of this role are to:

- Ensure that the FA's child protection procedures are followed within the club.
- Ensure that all coaches / managers are aware of these procedures.
- Ensure that appropriate training and support is provided.
- Decide whether to take further action about particular concerns. Report to the Berks & Bucks FA / Social Services where appropriate over suspected cases of child abuse.

### **The Policy**

Water Eaton Youth AFC is responsible for the safety and welfare of all children and young people who come to the club and for protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

Water Eaton Youth AFC will operate in a way that minimises the risk of harm to children and young people at the club. Specifically the club will:

Put a child's welfare before all other considerations.

Protect children at the club from abuse regardless of age, culture, race or religion.

Take swift action on all suspicions and allegations of abuse.

Water Eaton Youth AFC will have in place a designated Child Protection Officer who accepts responsibility for monitoring all club activity in relation to child protection issues.

Parents and children coming to Water Eaton Youth AFC will be made aware by the club of our child protection policy and contact details of the club's Child Protection Officer.

## Dealing with a Disclosure

The following points give guidance on how managers/trainers should deal with disclosures made to them:

- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Explain who you will have to tell and why.
- Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Accept what is being said.
- Allow the child to talk freely, limit any questions to a minimum. Seek only to clarify and strictly avoid leading the child or adult who has made the approach by making suggestions or introducing your own ideas into what may have happened.
- Never ask questions such as "Did he do X to you?" Instead use a minimum number of questions of the "Tell me what happened" type.
- If it is an adult making the approach and it becomes obvious that they are making a significant allegation concerning either abuse or neglect, you may feel it appropriate to stop them and refer to the designated trainer, unless he is the subject of the allegation, to avoid repetition of the details.
- Be especially careful to distinguish between fact and opinion. Note also any noticeable non-verbal behavior.
- Reassure the child but do not make promises that you cannot keep. - Reassure the child that what has happened is not their fault.
- Stress that the child has done the right thing by telling you.
- Do not enter the child's account by condemning or criticising the perpetrator.
- By following correct procedures you are protecting yourself and the club.
- If any member of the coaching staff at any stage has concerns for their own safety, especially owing to having made a referral, they should immediately involve the Child Protection Officer who will promptly involve the appropriate bodies