



ASPLEY GUISE
FOOTBALL CLUB



<https://www.aspleyguisefc.co.uk>

ASPLEY GUISE FC

Aspley Guise Football Club

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD

PROTECTION POLICY

2026/27 SEASON



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) & Welfare Officer

Joanna Clay

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Deputy DSL & Deputy Welfare Officer

Yasmin Husbands

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Introduction

Aspley Guise Football Club (AGFC) recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of every child and young person involved in club activities. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and positive environment where children can enjoy football free from harm, abuse or exploitation.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All players, coaches, volunteers, officials, parents, carers and visitors share a duty to protect children from harm.

For the purpose of this policy, a child is anyone under the age of 18.

AGFC adopts and adheres to the safeguarding policies and procedures of **The Football Association (The FA)**.

The welfare of the child is always the paramount consideration.

Our Safeguarding Commitment

We are committed to:

- Ensuring all children are safe and feel safe.
- Providing a respectful, inclusive and supportive environment.
- Listening to children and adults who raise concerns.
- Taking all concerns seriously and responding promptly.
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and relevant agencies.
- Ensuring all volunteers understand and implement safeguarding procedures.



Scope of This Policy

This policy applies to:

- All players under 18
- Coaches, managers and volunteers
- Club officials and committee members
- Match officials and medical staff
- Parents, carers and spectators
- Any adult working with or around children in a club context

All individuals must comply with The FA Safeguarding Children Regulations.

Types of Abuse

Abuse can occur in any setting. All members must remain vigilant.

Physical Abuse

Deliberate physical harm.

Emotional Abuse

Persistent emotional mistreatment including intimidation, humiliation or rejection.

Sexual Abuse

Any sexual activity involving a child, including exploitation or grooming.

Neglect

Failure to meet a child's basic physical or emotional needs.

Bullying

Repeated behaviour intended to harm or distress.

Additional Forms of Abuse and Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity. This may be in exchange for something the child needs or wants, or for the financial advantage, increased status or other benefit of the perpetrator or facilitator.



A child may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Exploitation may occur without physical contact, including through the use of technology and social media.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Criminal Exploitation is a form of child abuse in which an individual or group uses an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into criminal activity.

Children may be exploited into transporting drugs or money, carrying weapons, committing theft or violence, or carrying out other criminal acts. A child cannot consent to being exploited, and the fact that a child appears to participate willingly does not remove the need for safeguarding action.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation comprises procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs, for non-medical reasons.

FGM is child abuse and is illegal in the United Kingdom. Any concern that a child may be at risk of, has undergone or is being prepared for FGM must be reported immediately to the DSL. Where there is an immediate risk, the Police must be contacted on 999.

County Lines

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation in which organised criminal networks or gangs use telephone lines or other forms of communication to facilitate the movement and supply of drugs between locations.

Children and vulnerable adults may be groomed, coerced, threatened or forced to store or transport drugs, money or weapons. County lines activity may involve violence, intimidation, debt bondage, trafficking and the takeover of a vulnerable person's home. A child involved in county lines must be treated first and foremost as a potential victim of abuse and exploitation.

All concerns about CSE, CCE, FGM or county lines must be reported immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL and dealt with under the reporting procedures in this policy.



Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Leads all safeguarding matters.
- Acts as first point of contact for concerns.
- Liaises with The FA, County FA and statutory agencies.
- Ensures safeguarding compliance and training.

Coaches, Managers & Volunteers

- Must hold a valid FA DBS check (where eligible).
- Must complete FA Safeguarding Children training.
- Must act in the best interests of children at all times.
- Must report concerns immediately.

Parents, Carers & Adult Players

- Must model appropriate behaviour.
- Must report safeguarding concerns.

Safe Working Practices

All adults must:

- Work in open and observable environments.
 - Avoid unnecessary one-to-one situations.
 - Use appropriate language and behaviour.
 - Not share personal contact details or social media with children.
 - Obtain parental consent for travel or overnight stays.
 - Respect privacy in changing facilities (adults must not change or shower alongside children).
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Responding to Concerns, Disclosures & Reporting Procedures

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are concerned about a child, you must act.

If a Child Discloses Information

1. Listen calmly and without judgement.
2. Reassure them they have done the right thing.
3. Do not promise confidentiality.
4. Do not investigate or ask leading questions.
5. Report immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL.
6. Record the disclosure using the child's own words, sign and date it.

Never confront the alleged individual yourself.

If You Are Concerned About a Child

- Report concerns immediately to the DSL.
 - For poor practice issues, the DSL will manage internally or seek County FA advice.
 - For suspected abuse or significant harm, refer without delay (see flowchart below).
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In an Emergency

If a child is in immediate danger, call **999**.

If urgent medical treatment is required, inform medical professionals this is a child protection concern and notify the DSL as soon as possible.

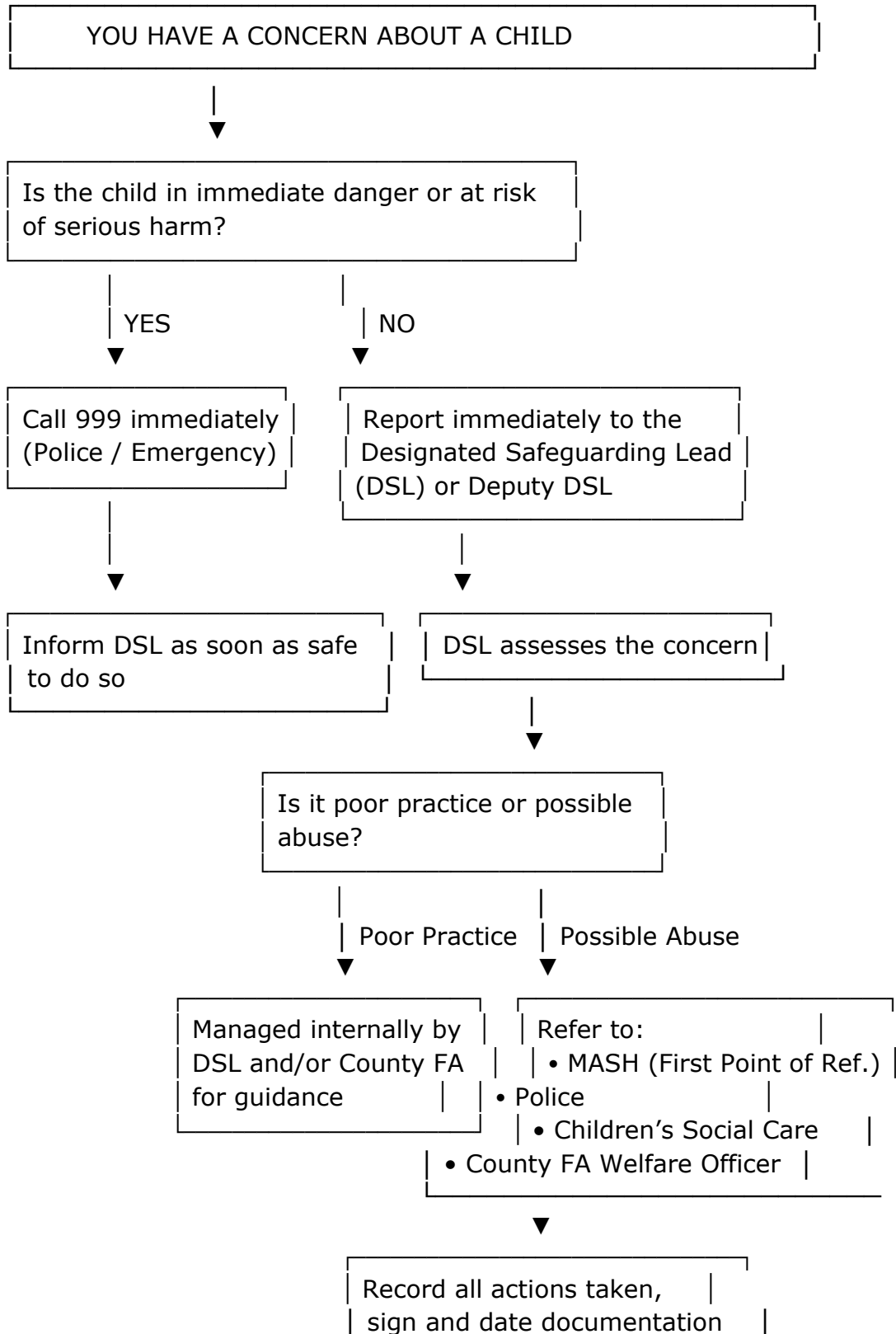
If the DSL cannot be contacted and the matter is serious, contact:

- MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)
- Police
- Children's Social Care
- County FA Welfare Officer
- NSPCC Helpline (0800 800 5000)

Doing nothing is not an option.



Safeguarding Reporting Flowchart - What To Do If You Have a Concern About a Child





Safeguarding Contact Details

Club

Designated Safeguarding Lead and Welfare Officer

Joanna Clay

Telephone: 07568 306155

Email: welfare@aspleyguisefc.co.uk

Deputy DSL and Deputy Welfare Officer

Yasmin Husbands

Telephone: 07949 929004

Email: yasmin@aspleyguisefc.co.uk

Milton Keynes Children's Services

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00am–5:00pm; Friday, 9:00am–4:30pm

Telephone: 01908 253169 or 01908 253170

Email: children@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Emergency Social Work Team (ESWT)

For urgent concerns outside MASH office hours

Telephone: 01908 265545

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

For concerns or allegations involving a person who volunteers with children

Telephone: 01908 254307

Email: lado@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Other Contacts

Police

Emergency or immediate risk of harm: 999 Non-emergency: 101

NSPCC Helpline

Telephone: 0800 800 5000

Milton Keynes Adult Social Care Access Team

For a concern involving an adult at risk

Office-hours telephone: 01908 253772

Email: Access.Team@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Adult Social Care Out-of-Hours Service

Telephone: 01908 725055

If a child or adult at risk is in immediate danger, call 999. The DSL should be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. If the DSL or Deputy DSL is unavailable, this must not delay a referral to the appropriate statutory agency.



Safer Recruitment and Training

AGFC follows The FA's responsible recruitment requirements and applies safer recruitment principles to all staff and volunteer roles involving children.

The Club will:

- Provide a clear role description setting out the individual's duties and safeguarding responsibilities.
- Require applicants to complete an appropriate application or volunteer registration process.
- Verify the applicant's identity.
- Meet or interview applicants before confirming their appointment.
- Obtain and verify two satisfactory references, wherever possible including one from the applicant's most recent employer or organisation. References should not be supplied solely by family members or friends.
- Obtain a complete employment and volunteering history and require the applicant to explain any gaps or inconsistencies. Explanations will be considered and recorded as part of the recruitment decision.
- Require an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check
- Confirm that required safeguarding checks, qualifications and training are complete before the individual undertakes unsupervised regulated activity with children.
- Maintain secure records of recruitment checks, references, training and DBS status in accordance with data-protection requirements.
- Risk-assess any information disclosed through the recruitment process and seek advice from the County FA, The FA, DBS agency where appropriate.

A DBS certificate is only one part of safer recruitment and does not replace references, identity checks, interviews, training, supervision or the ongoing monitoring of conduct.

All relevant staff and volunteers must maintain:

- An Enhanced DBS check appropriate to their role and renewed in accordance with The FA's requirements.
- Up-to-date FA safeguarding training and any role-specific qualifications or training required by The FA or the Club.

No appointment will be confirmed until the Club is satisfied that the individual is suitable to work or volunteer with children.



Management and Supervision of Staff and Volunteers

AGFC recognises that safeguarding continues throughout a person's appointment and is not limited to recruitment checks.

The Club will:

- Ensure every member of staff and every volunteer understands their role, responsibilities, expected standards of behaviour and duty to report safeguarding concerns.
- Provide appropriate induction, guidance, training and access to this policy and the Club's codes of conduct.
- Identify a named person responsible for overseeing each volunteer.
- Provide proportionate supervision and support, taking account of the role, level of experience and degree of contact with children.
- Maintain appropriate adult-to-child ratios and ensure activities are planned to minimise avoidable one-to-one situations.
- Monitor conduct and working practices through observation, feedback, regular communication and review.
- Provide opportunities for volunteers to raise concerns, discuss difficult situations and identify further training or support needs.
- Conduct periodic reviews and address concerns about performance, conduct, professional boundaries or suitability promptly.
- Keep appropriate records of induction, supervision, training, concerns raised and action taken.
- Ensure allegations or safeguarding concerns involving a member of staff or volunteer are reported immediately to the DSL and referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer and County FA as appropriate.
- Take immediate protective action where necessary, which may include changing duties or temporarily removing an individual from activities while advice is obtained. Such action will be neutral and will not, by itself, imply guilt.
- Apply the Club's disciplinary procedures where required and make referrals to the DBS, The FA, Police or other statutory agencies where the relevant criteria are met.

All staff and volunteers are responsible for maintaining professional boundaries and must promptly report any conduct that may place a child at risk or undermine confidence in the Club's safeguarding arrangements.



Whistleblowing

AGFC supports The FA Whistleblowing Policy.

Concerns about adults in positions of trust can be reported to:

The Football Association Safeguarding Team

Tel: 0800 169 1863

Email: Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Alternatively, concerns may be reported directly to Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

Anti-Bullying & Respect

Bullying is not tolerated at AGFC.

Respect Codes of Conduct apply to players, parents, coaches and officials. Breaches may result in internal sanctions and/or referral to the County FA.

Policy Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually
- Updated in line with legislation and FA guidance
- Made available to all members

Final Statement

Aspley Guise Football Club believes football should be safe, inclusive and enjoyable for every child.

By working together, we will ensure our club remains a positive, protective and supportive environment where young people can thrive both on and off the pitch.