Matlock Town Football Club
Proctor Cars Stadium
Causeway Lane
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AR

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## 1. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

As an England Football Accredited Club**, Matlock Town Football Club** acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity.

This policy is driven by the Football Association (FA) policies and procedures, Government legislation. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

**Matlock Town Football Club** endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, religion or belief, ability, pregnancy and maternity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential.

We acknowledge that every young person who plays or participates in football must be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practise and abuse.

**Matlock Town Football Club** recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club including the parents/cares of our players and we will effectively communicate this to our members throughout the season.

**Matlock Town Football Club** commits to ensuring that children and young people have the right to take part, be heard and have their views and opinions taken into consideration when making club decisions and actions that concern them.

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## 2. OUR ROLE

**Matlock Town Football Club** has a responsibility to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook **TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook)** apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

## 3. SAFER RECRUITMENT

We endorse and adopt The FA's Safer Recruitment guidelines and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant
- Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone.
- Where eligible required an FA accepted DBS enhanced and barred list check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

Everyone working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers, first aiders and physiotherapists, are required to hold an in-date FA-accepted DBS enhanced with barred list Check as part of safer recruitment practice and we commit to managing this consistently with individuals in current roles and those new to role.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of **Matlock Town Football Club**, guidance will always be sought from the Football Association.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of football being used in the grooming of children.

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## 4. OUR CLUB WELFARE OFFICER

**Matlock Town Football Club** has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (Youth & Adult Teams)("CWO") in line with The FA's role profile who has completed the Safeguarding Children, Welfare Officer and Player Welfare Courses. We commit to supporting the post holder to be involved with ongoing Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or CFA. Our CWO is the first point of contact for all parents/carers and club officials regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The role of the CWO and their contact information is widely communicated throughout the club. The CWO will liaise directly with the CFA DSO and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. The CWO will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, acceptable behaviours, how to deal with low-level concerns and how to report abuse. We recognise the need for proportionality in appointing individuals to the role of CWO (Youth Teams) and where appropriate Assistant CWO (Youth Teams) to ensure visibility for our membership. Where needed, we will appoint Assistant Club Welfare Officers (Youth Teams) to support the club and CWO to bring this policy to life and to drive safer working practise and a proactive culture as is necessary.

Contact the CWO directly – Neil Holmes
Mtfc.welfare@gmail.com or 07516 893400

## 5. BULLYING

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. All players and parents/carers will be able to access our anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and in cases of repeated and/or serious bullying the CFA DSO may be contacted.

## 6. ACCEPTANCE BEHAVIOUR WHEN WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Everyone who works or volunteers with children is responsible and accountable for the way in which they behave around and towards them. Every child has a right to be treated with respect and dignity. We always require adults within our club to exhibit acceptable behaviour. We adopt The FA's "Acceptable Behaviours guidance (5.7)".

Codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by our Club. The club has clear actions it will take regarding breaches of the codes, repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances.

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## 7. REPORTING CONCERNS

**Matlock Town Football Club** recognises Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. If anyone is worried about a child, they must report their concern to our CWO (Youth Teams).

Our CWO will manage low-level concerns and where necessary seek advice from the CFA DSO.

- Our CWO will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Social Care. We will ensure that the child needs immediate medical treatment that we will take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it's a child protection concern.
- Our CWO will keep records of the actions taken and keep the CFA DSO informed.

If at any time our CWO is not available, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members must be aware that they can:

(a) Contact the CFA DSO directly at
Jenny.blewitt@derbyshirefa.com
or 07507 427548

(b) Contact The FA's Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or
safeguarding@thefa.com

(c) Contact the Police or Children's Social Care

(d) Call NSPCC Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or
help@nspcc.org.uk

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## 8. WHISTLE – BLOWING

Whistle-blowing in a safeguarding context means revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation, or within an independent structure associated with it.

It can be used as an early-warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague's conduct towards a child or young person can use whistle-blowing by emailing: safeguarding@thefa.com

Alternatively, concerns can be reported:

- Direct to the local police or Children Care Services, or
- The Child Protection in Sport Unit at cpu@nspcc.org.uk or The NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

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# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

**Matlock Town Football Club** committee understands and accepts our collective responsibility to our safeguarding policy and procedures.

We commit to ensuring our members are aware of and have access to our policies.

Further advice on Safeguarding matters can be obtained from:

The Football Club's Welfare Officer; - CWO

- Neil Holmes
- 07516 893400
- mtfc.welfare@gmail.com

Derbyshire County FA – DSO

- Jenny Blewitt
- 07507 427548
- Jenny.blewitt@derbyshirefa.com

The FA

- The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0808 800 5000
- safeguarding@thefa.com