

# WYTHALL TENNIS CLUB

## Supplementary Safeguarding Information



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## PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Wythall Tennis Club has a Safeguarding Policy and Procedures document based on the January 2023 template provided by the LTA. Some elements of the LTA template provide useful supplementary information on safeguarding issues but they are not policy or procedures. We have included those elements in this Supplementary Information document so that the Policy and Procedures document is more concise and accessible.

## INCREASED VULNERABILITY TO ABUSE

Vulnerability is a changeable and contextual state but may include children and adults at risk with a physical disability or diagnosed condition such as dementia, learning difficulties, or those who have a mental health condition such as severe anxiety or depression.

Children and adults in these groups may:

- Have smaller network of friends and peer group to support and protect
- Require intimate/physical and or invasive medical care required which can allow abuse to be hidden
- Have communication difficulties
- Be less able to resist either verbally or physically
- Be dependent on the abuser for a service or basic need
- Have medical conditions that are used to explain injuries

Personal circumstances away from tennis such as domestic violence, poverty, substance abuse, homelessness and social exclusion may also have an impact on vulnerability. In addition, children and adults at risk from LGBTQ+ and/or Black, Asian and Other Minority Ethnic groups can:

- Be subjected to bullying, emotional abuse and physical abuse due to their sexual orientation or gender identity
- Experience racism and racist attitudes
- Engage in cultural practices, which are classed as abuse within the UK (e.g., honour-based violence, female genital mutilation)
- Expect to be ignored by people in authority due to experience of institutionalised racism
- Be afraid of further abuse or racist abuse if they challenge others
- Be subjected to myths based on racial stereotyping
- Be using or learning English as a second language and therefore find it more difficult to communicate

## MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

Legislation recognises that adults make choices that may mean that one part of their well-being suffers at the expense of another. Similarly, adults can also make a decision to risk their personal safety, for example to provide care to a partner with dementia who becomes abusive when they are disorientated and anxious.

The concept of 'well-being' is threaded throughout UK legislation and is part of the Law about how health and social care is provided. Our well-being includes our mental and physical health, our relationships, our connection with our communities and our contribution to society.

'Making Safeguarding Personal' means engaging an adult at risk in a conversation about how best to respond to their situation in a way that enhances their involvement, choice and control, as well as improving their quality of life, well-being and safety. Their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs will be taken into account when decisions are made about how to support them to be safe and finding the solution that is right for them. Treating people with respect, enhancing their dignity and supporting their ability to make decisions also helps promote people's sense of self-worth and supports recovery from abuse.

If an adult at risk has difficulty making their views and wishes known, they can be supported or



represented by an advocate. This might be a safe family member or friend of their choice or a professional advocate (usually from a third sector organisation).

Being able to live free from abuse and neglect is a key element of well-being. Any actions taken to safeguard an adult must take their whole well-being into account and be proportionate to the risk of harm.

## MENTAL CAPACITY

It is important to make sure an adult at risk has choices in the actions taken to safeguard them, including whether or not they want other people informed about what has happened, however, in some situations the adult may not have the mental capacity to understand the choice or to tell us their views.

If we are concerned that an adult at risk who has a lot of difficulty making their own decisions is being abused or neglected, we will need to refer the situation to the Local Authority, and this should result in health or social care professionals making an assessment of mental capacity and/or getting the person the support they need to make decisions.

We will always seek to obtain the consent from an adult at risk before sharing information about them with others, however there are some circumstances where we will need to act without their consent and these include where:

- it is not safe to contact them to gain their consent – i.e. it might put them or the person making contact at further risk
- we believe they or someone else is at risk, including children
- we believe the adult at risk is being coerced or is under duress
- it is necessary to contact the police to prevent a crime, or to report that a serious crime has been committed
- the adult at risk does not have mental capacity to consent to information being shared about them
- the person causing harm has care and support needs
- the concerns are about an adult at risk living in Wales or Northern Ireland (where there is a duty to report to the Local Authority).

When information is shared without the consent of the adult at risk this will be explained to them, when it is safe to do so, and any further actions should still fully include them

## INFORMATION SHARING AND RETENTION

We follow the UK Government's Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners which describes the '7 Golden Rules' of information sharing:

- Remember that the Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
- Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
- Seek advice from other practitioners if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
- Share with informed consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is good reason to do so, such as where safety may be at risk.
- Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.

- Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
- Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

Further details of the above guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

## APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

**Adult:** a person aged 18 years or older

**Child:** a person under the age of 18 years.

**Parent:** birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role.

**Adult at risk:**

In England, an individual aged 18 years and over who:

- (a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) AND;
- (b) is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, AND;
- (c) as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

In Scotland, an individual aged 16 years and over who:

- a) is unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests,
- b) is at risk of harm, AND;
- c) because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, is more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

In Wales, an individual aged 18 years and over who:

- a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, AND;
- b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) AND;
- c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk

**Safeguarding:** the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This means protecting children from abuse and maltreatment, preventing harm to their health or development, ensuring they grow up with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. Safeguarding adults means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

**Child protection:** the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering, significant harm.

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):** an individual within a local authority in England and Wales with responsibility for oversight of allegations against people who work with children.

**Prohibited conduct:** engage, or attempt or threaten to engage, in conduct that directly or indirectly harms the physical and/or mental welfare and/or safety of one or more child or adult at risk; or pose a risk of harm to the physical and/or mental welfare and/or safety of one or more child or adult at risk.

**Abuse:** Abuse happens when a person harms a child or an adult at risk. An abuser can be:

- family members
- friends
- people working or volunteering in organisational or community settings
- people they know
- strangers

**Indicators of abuse:** There are many signs and indicators that may suggest a child or adult at risk is being abused or neglected. The NSPCC and Ann Craft Trust have comprehensive lists of the types of abuse and their indicators at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/> and <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/types-of-harm/>. Examples of signs and symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Unexplained change in behaviour
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Missing belongings or money
- Child is not attending / no longer enjoying their sessions
- Changes in weight
- Truancy
- Sexually explicit knowledge or behaviour
- Being withdrawn
- Genital pain, stomach pains, discomfort, pregnancy, incontinence, urinary infections, STDs.
- Dirty, ill-fitting clothes or a lack of appropriate clothing for the weather
- Self-harm.
- A fear of a particular group of people or individual.
- Lack of friends
- Lack of growth or development
- Low self-esteem

#### **Neglect:**

Children - Ongoing failure to meet the basic needs of children. Neglect may involve failing to provide adequate food or shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect them from physical and emotional harm or danger or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, basic emotional needs.

Adults at risk - includes ignoring medical or physical care needs and failing to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services. It also includes the withdrawing of the necessities of life, including medication, adequate nutrition, and heating.

**Emotional abuse:** Any act or other treatment which is persistent and may cause emotional damage and undermine a child's sense of wellbeing. This includes persistent criticism, denigration or putting unrealistic expectations on children, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation or use of threats.

**Emotional/Psychological abuse (adults at risk):** Includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation, or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

#### **Physical abuse:**

Children - Physical abuse happens when a child is deliberately hurt, causing physical harm. It can involve hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or suffocating. It's also physical abuse if a parent or carer makes up or causes the symptoms of illness in children. For example, they may give them medicine they don't need, making them unwell. This is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).

Adults at risk - Hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

#### **Sexual abuse:**

Children - Any act which involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. It doesn't necessarily involve violence and the child may not be aware that what is happening is abuse. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.



They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Abusers may threaten to send sexually explicit images, video or copies of sexual conversations to the child's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity. Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the abuse has stopped.

Adults at risk - Includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault, or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented, or was pressured into consenting.

**Grooming:** The process of developing a relationship with and the trust of a child, their family, and any other adults around the child, to commit sexual abuse or exploitation against them. Grooming can happen both online and in person.

**Child sexual exploitation:** A form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or groups of people take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation can also take place through the use of technology.

**Self-neglect (adults at risk):** Covers a wide range of behaviour, but it can be broadly defined as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health, or surroundings. An example of self-neglect is behaviour such as hoarding.

**Modern Slavery (adults at risk):** Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, and domestic servitude.

**Domestic Abuse (adults at risk):** Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people who are, or who have been in a relationship, regardless of gender or sexuality. It can include physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Exposure to domestic abuse is child abuse. Children can be directly involved in incidents of domestic abuse or they may be harmed by seeing or hearing abuse happening. Children in homes where there is domestic abuse are also at risk of other types of abuse or neglect.

**Discriminatory (adults at risk):** Abuse or bullying because of discrimination occurs when motivated by a prejudice against certain people or groups of people. This may be because of an individual's ethnic origin, colour, nationality, race, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability. Actions may include unfair or less favourable treatment, culturally insensitive comments, insults and 'banter'.

**Organisational (adults at risk):** Includes neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting, such as a hospital or care home, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. Organisational abuse can range from one off incidents to ongoing ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation



**Financial (adults at risk):** Includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, and coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions. It can also include the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

**Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB):** HSB is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children and which may be harmful or abusive. It may also be referred to as sexually harmful behaviour or sexualised behaviour.

HSB encompasses a range of behaviour, which can be displayed towards younger children, peers, older children or adults. It is harmful to the children who display it, as well as the people it is directed towards.

HSB can include:

- using sexually explicit words and phrases
- inappropriate touching
- using sexual violence or threats
- sexual activity with other children or adults

Sexual behaviour between children is considered harmful if one of the children is much older – particularly if there is more than two years' difference in age or if one of the children is pre-pubescent and the other isn't. However, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them – for example, if the older child is disabled

**Bullying:** Repeated behaviour intended to intimidate or upset a child and/or make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, for example, name calling, exclusion or isolation, spreading rumours, embarrassing someone in public or in front of their peers, threatening to cause harm, physically hurting someone or damaging their possessions.

**Cyberbullying:** The use of technology to harass, threaten, embarrass, humiliate, spread rumours or target another child.

**Child trafficking:** Child trafficking involves recruiting and moving children who are then exploited. Many children are trafficked into the UK from overseas, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another. Children may be trafficked for child sexual exploitation, benefit fraud, forced marriage, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and more.

**County lines:** The organised criminal distribution of drugs by gangs from the big cities into smaller towns and rural areas using children. Gangs recruit children through deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. County line gangs pose a significant threat to children upon whom they rely to conduct and/or facilitate such criminality.

**Female genital mutilation:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting. The age at which FGM is carried out varies. It may be carried out when a child is new-born, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during pregnancy. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM.

**Hazing:** Rituals, initiation activities, actions or situations that occur with or without consent, which recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endanger the physical or emotional well-being of vulnerable groups.

**Honour-Based Violence:** Honour-Based Violence (HBV) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of HBV are abuse.





**Infatuations:** Children may develop an infatuation with a person who works with them. Such situations should be handled sensitively to maintain the dignity and safety of all concerned. People who work with children should be aware, that in such circumstances, there is a high risk that words or actions may be misinterpreted and that allegations could be made against them. These people should therefore ensure that their own behaviour is above reproach. Situations where a child is infatuated should be raised at the earliest opportunity with the Welfare Officer and LTA Safeguarding Team.

**Peer-on-peer abuse:** Children can be taken advantage of or harmed by their peers. Peer-on-peer abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between individuals and within relationships (both intimate and nonintimate).

**Radicalisation:** The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. Anybody from any background can become radicalised. The grooming of children for the purposes of involvement in extremist activity is a serious safeguarding issue.

## APPENDIX B: LEGISLATION, GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS

Our approach to safeguarding is based on the principles recognised within UK legislation as well as LTA and Government guidance, which includes:

Age of Legal Capacity Act 1991 (Scotland)	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
Care Act 2014	Police Act 1997
Children Act 1989	Protection from Abuse Act 2001 (Scotland)
Children Act 1995 (Scotland)	Protection of Children Act 1999
Children Act 2004	Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences Act 2005 (Scotland)
Children (Equal Protection from Assault) Act 2019 (Scotland)	Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
Children and Social Work Act 2017	Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act 2007 (Scotland)
Children and Young People Act 2014 (Scotland)	Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2003 (Scotland)	Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
Criminal Procedure Act 1995 (Scotland)	Sexual Offences (Amendments) Act 2000
Data Protection Act 1998	Sexual Offences Act 2009 (Scotland)
Disclosure Act 2020 (Scotland)	Sexual Offences Act 2003
Equalities Act 2010	Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 (Wales)
European Convention on Human Rights 1950	The Age of Criminal Responsibility Act 2019 (Scotland)
General Data Protection Regulations 2018	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) (Scotland)	Wales Safeguarding Procedures
Human Rights Act 1998	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (revised 2020)
Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners 2018	

Each home nation also has legislation about the circumstances in which decisions can be made on behalf of an adult at risk who is unable to make decisions for themselves:

- England and Wales - Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Scotland - Adults with Incapacity Act 2000
- There are specific offences applying to the mistreatment of and sexual offences against adults who do not have Mental Capacity and specific offences where mistreatment is carried out by a person who is employed as a carer: e.g. wilful neglect and wilful mistreatment.

## APPENDIX C: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Free helpline for alcohol issues.

0800 9177 650

[help@aamail.org](mailto:help@aamail.org)

[www.alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk)

### Anger Management

British Association of Anger Management (BAAM)

0845 130 0286

[www.angermanage.co.uk](http://www.angermanage.co.uk)

### Beat

Provides support on all aspects of eating disorders.

0808 801 0677 (over 18s)

[help@beateatingdisorders.org.uk](mailto:help@beateatingdisorders.org.uk)

### Bipolar UK

Support to enable people affected by bipolar disorder/ manic depression to take control of their lives.

0333 323 3880

[info@bipolaruk.org](mailto:info@bipolaruk.org)

[www.bipolaruk.org.uk](http://www.bipolaruk.org.uk)

### ChildLine

ChildLine help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they are going through.

08001111 or you can email or live chat at: <https://www.childline.org.uk/about/about-childline/>

### Galop

Emotional and practical support for LGBT people experiencing domestic violence.

0800 999 5428

[help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk)

### Men's Advice Line

Information, support and advice to men experiencing domestic violence, offered by Respect.

0808 801 0327

[info@mensadviceline.org.uk](mailto:info@mensadviceline.org.uk)

### Mind

Information, advice, guidance and support for people with mental health problems.

0300 123 3393

[info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)

### National Domestic Violence Helpline

Run in partnership between Women's Aid & Refuge.

0808 2000 247

### NAPAC

The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) offers support to adult survivors of all types of childhood abuse.

0808 801 0331

<https://napac.org.uk/>

### NSPCC

The NSPCC can support with any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing.

[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)



[0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

**One in four**

Specialising in working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse and sexual violence. Offers long-term 1-1 therapy.

0208 697 2112

[admin@oneinfour.org.uk](mailto:admin@oneinfour.org.uk)

[www.oneinfour.org.uk](http://www.oneinfour.org.uk)

**Relate**

Counselling and relationship education for couples. Live chat line service also available.

0300 100 1234

[www.relate.org.uk](http://www.relate.org.uk)

**Samaritans**

Call 116 123 for free - Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you.

[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**Sane**

Deals with all aspects of mental illness including depression, schizophrenia and anxiety.

0845 767 8000

[www.sane.org.uk](http://www.sane.org.uk)

**The Survivors Trust**

The Survivors Trust is the largest umbrella agency for specialist rape and sexual abuse services in the UK

01788 550554

[www.thesurvivorstrust.org](http://www.thesurvivorstrust.org)

**Talk to Frank**

National organisation providing advice regarding drugs and substance abuse. On-line live chat service also available.

0300 123 6600

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

