

## 2.1 Safeguarding and Child Welfare.



[SportCheer NI]

### SCNI Responsibilities

SCNI recognises that it has a duty to help ensure affiliated and registered organisations and individual members understand and fulfil their responsibilities through the provision of clear guidance and support. SCNI guidance has been formulated with the underlying aim of minimising risk to children and, wherever possible, avoiding situations where it is known that abuse or neglect can occur. SCNI will support this duty through the development and provision of learning opportunities for members

### Club Responsibilities:

All clubs who provide services to children have a common law duty of care. SCNI policy and procedures set out the minimum standards that clubs should apply.

SCNI will provide support and guidance to help clubs to meet their responsibilities.

All clubs must ensure that:

- 1) The overall responsibility for safeguarding sits at the most senior level of their organisation.
- 2) There is at least one suitably trained and competent Welfare Officer designated within the club to take the lead role in dealing with safeguarding issues.
  - a) The responsibilities of the individual should include: -
    - i) Promoting the welfare of children and importance of safeguarding.
    - ii) Ensuring that young people are listened to and are involved in decision making.
    - iii) Ensuring that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding/child protection. –
    - iv) Responding to safeguarding/child protection and poor practice concerns. –
    - v) Liaising with SCNI and local Statutory Agencies. –
    - vi) Working with other organisations as required. - acting as the designated person for criminal records checks.
- 3) All staff and volunteers, who are working with children receive appropriate training, updated every three years, and have access to advice on child protection, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children through the Club Welfare Officer
- 4) All children and young people and their parents, are aware of behaviour that is not acceptable and how they can help to keep themselves safe.
- 5) They support Whistle Blowing and take steps to ensure members, their parents/carers, and others, feel able to raise concerns without fear of negative repercussions.
- 6) Confidentiality is maintained in relation to concerns and referrals and information is only shared on a genuine 'need to know' basis in line with SCNI Confidentiality and Information Sharing Guidance
- 7) They comply with the SCNI guidance on Safe Recruitment to prevent unsuitable people from obtaining, or remaining in, positions of trust or responsibility.
- 8) They comply with the all applicable supplementary policy and guidance and accept responsibility for identifying and responding to any deficiencies or weaknesses in its arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children.
- 9) They work in partnership with SCNI to ensure poor practice is addressed and any required remedial action is taken.

It is not the role of Club Officials to investigate possible abuse or neglect. However, they have a key role to play by referring concerns to Children's Social Care Services/Police, providing information for their investigations and notifying SCNI.