



# Taunton Chess Club

St Michaels Church, Pitts Close, Galmington, Taunton, TA1 4TP

## **Safeguarding Children Policy**

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children (up to the age of 18) and young people are paramount in all circumstances as enshrined in the Children Act 1989. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all children:

- a. Have a positive and enjoyable experience of chess in a safe and child centred environment.
- b. Are protected from harm and abuse whilst participating in chess or outside of the activity.

It also aims to provide Taunton Chess Club officers, members & non-members with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

## **Safeguarding Officer – Role Description**

The Safeguarding Officers for the Taunton Chess Club are:

- Lead Safeguarding Officer - Niall Homer, Tel No. 07562 717720
- Deputy Safeguarding Officer – David Graham, Tel No. 07914 759583

### **Purpose:**

To ensure that Taunton Chess Club has appropriate arrangements for keeping children and young people safe. To promote the safety and welfare of children and young people.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Ensure that all issues concerning safety and welfare of children and young people who attend Taunton Chess Club events are properly dealt with through policies, procedures and administrative systems.
- Ensure that everyone involved has access to the Child Safeguarding Policy and procedures and is aware of what they should do if they have concerns about a child.
- Receive, record and report information from anyone who has concerns about a child who attends an event.
- Advise and support the Taunton Chess Club officers, members & non-members on safeguarding/child protection.
- Undertake annual monitoring and review of the policy.
- Assist with updating the policy in consultation with the Lead for Safeguarding.
- Take the lead on dealing with information that may constitute a child protection concern or an allegation about a member/non-member of the Taunton Chess Club. This includes assessing and clarifying the information, and taking decisions where in consultation with colleagues, the Lead for Safeguarding, chair of the committee and statutory child protection agencies as required. Handle all information sensitively and confidentially.
- Consult with, pass on information to and receive information from statutory child protection agencies such as the local social care department and police. This includes making formal referrals to those agencies if required.
- Undertake “Duty to Refer” to the DBS if required.
- Report to Taunton Chess Club committee meeting as required but at least once per year, on the level of risk management being achieved.
- Be familiar with how the local safeguarding board works and how to contact them.
- Be familiar with issues relating to child protection and keep up to date with developments.
- Attend training in issues relevant to child protection from time to time and share knowledge from that. (e.g. via NSPCC or SAFEcic or local authority)

# Recognising the Signs and Symptoms of Abuse

Taunton Chess Club members and non-members are required to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse.

There are 4 main areas of abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect (intentional and unintentional)

Possible signs of abuse include:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries or the explanation of the cause of the injury is does not seem right.
- You observe or the child discloses abuse, or describes what appears to be an abusive act.
- Someone else (child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child.
- Unexplained change in behaviour such as withdrawal or sudden outbursts of temper.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour.
- Distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Difficulty in making friends.
- Eating disorders, depression, self-harm or suicide attempts.

## **Physical Abuse:**

May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent/carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

## **Emotional Abuse:**

Is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, (including cyber- bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

## **Sexual Abuse:**

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. 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 include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

## **Neglect:**

Is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

## Overview of Actions

Overview of actions if you have concerns about the welfare of a child:

- a. Is the child in immediate danger or are they injured?
  - If YES – Contact the emergency services on 999.
- b. Report the concern:
  - It is important that there should be no delay in contacting either the Social Services or the police if someone thinks a crime may have been committed. Any individual can do this, 24 hours/day, it does not have to be the Safeguarding Officer.

If it is not thought that a crime has been committed but there is concern for a child's welfare then the issue should be reported to the safeguarding officer within 24 hours. The safeguarding officer will contact the local Children's Social Care Services (Social Services) for advice or to make a referral in the first instance and follow up with a written report within 24 hours. If the safeguarding officer is not available, the organiser or the individual raising the concern must do this.

- c. Ensure you keep a record of your concern and how you reported it.  
The person raising the concern is to complete the 'Recording Concerns/Allegations of Abuse, Harm or Neglect' Form found at appendix 1. All information recorded is confidential. **Please note - parents/carers should not be spoken to if the discussions may put the child at risk of harm.**

## Confidentiality

Children and young people have a right to confidentiality unless the organisation considers they could be at risk of abuse and/or harm. The legal principle is that the "welfare of the child is paramount". Privacy and confidentiality should be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a child at risk of harm then the child's safety has to come first. Legally, it is perfectly acceptable to share information if someone is worried about the safety of a child but only people who need to know should be told.

## Child Protection Code of Conduct for Taunton Chess Club Officers, Members & Non-Members

All those involved in chess for children and young people have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and help build an individual's confidence. Taunton Chess Club officers, members and non-members are expected to:

- Ensure the safety of all children by providing effective supervision and proper planning of organised chess activities.
- Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before engaging in activities such as coaching or organising playing of chess.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Treat all young people fairly and ensure they feel valued and respected. Have no favourites.
- Encourage all children not to discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social classes or lack of ability.
- Not allow any bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour.
- Appreciate the efforts of all young people and encourage sensible participation in chess activities. Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of the Taunton Chess Club at all times.
- Not let any allegations of abuse of any kind or poor practice to go unchallenged or unrecorded. Incidents and accidents to be recorded in the line with the procedures. Parents will be informed.
- Never use sanctions that humiliate or harm young people.
- Report accidents or incidents of alleged abuse or poor practice to the designated Safeguarding Officer/person.
- Administer minor first aid (if appropriate) in the presence of others and where required refer more serious incidents to the designated "first aider" or send for/to medical assistance. Avoid administering First Aid involving the removing of children's clothing unless in the presence of others.
- Have access to telephone for immediate contact to emergency services if required.
- Ensure the rights and responsibilities of children or young people are enforced.
- Establish and address the additional needs of disabled participants or other vulnerable groups.
- Not abuse children or young people physically, emotionally or sexually.
- Not engage in a sexual relationship with a child or young person for whom they are responsible
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information.

- Respect and listen to the opinions of young people.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Be a role model, displaying consistently high standard of behaviour and appearance (disciplined / committed / time keeping), remember children learn by example.
- Refrain from smoking and consumption of alcohol during direct coaching.
- Avoid taking photos without permission, especially of individuals.
- Not accept or give individual gifts to children and young people without permission from parents/guardians.
- Not add minors to their social media accounts or have telephone numbers unless parents have given permission.
- Not spending excessive amounts of time alone with children unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Never taking children to their home, hotel bedroom or similar (e.g. for coaching) without the additional presence of a person who is, or is authorised by their parent/guardian, or without explicit parental/guardian consent.
- Plan activities which involve more than one other person being present or at least are within sight or hearing of others where possible. This applies to such activities as one-to-one training and travelling to or from chess events.
- Not have any inappropriate verbal or physical contact (Including suggestive gestures) with/in front of children or young people.
- For activities, such as coaching chess: Hold appropriate valid qualifications/accreditation and/or have appropriate experience in playing chess or engaging in chess activities with children and young people.

### **Online Chess: Code of Conduct**

- Seek to ensure that children participating in organised online events are either able to retain their anonymity or are not identified as juniors except where participation in the event is limited to juniors or the publication of details is made clear on entry forms.
- Either disable the group chat facility for online tournaments and events or seek to monitor chat where it is not disabled.
- Email direct links for joining junior invitational tournaments where feasible and consider using passwords. Take all decisions regarding children's participation with appropriate reference to their parents and guardians, and provide parents and guardians with access to the Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct for children. Ensure that parents are informed about reporting procedures for breaches.
- Keep relevant records of individuals online chess.

Parents and Guardians should be encouraged to:

- Understand the protections for juniors offered by the platform on which their children are participating and make use of those facilities where feasible and appropriate.
- Review their child's profile and consider whether any information provided (and which is generally available) might compromise the privacy of their child or provide third parties with the ability to communicate with their child.
- Consider other measures to protect the privacy of the child, such as not permitting "followers" and preventing unmonitored messaging to and from the child.
- Consider exercising the ability to disable chat or other unmonitored communications between the child and other users except where this is necessary for the purposes of participation.
- Be familiar with online child safety.

Players - adults or juniors will be encouraged to observe minimum standards of behaviour in online chess including:

- Complying with fair play standards and the rules of platform providers.
- Refraining from inappropriate language.
- Not sending spam or persistent unsolicited messages.
- Not harassing other players or administrators or otherwise acting offensively.
- Not sharing passwords or access to other accounts.

Organisers and administrators (including coaches) - should exercise caution and should seek to:

- Communicate with juniors on a one-to-one basis only via their parents, e.g. with the email address provided to Taunton Chess Club, except when authorised for teaching purposes.
- Only communicate with juniors on a one-to-many basis, e.g. to inform members of the team or group about a specific upcoming match or tournament for members of that team or group.
- Encourage parents to set their child's account to a child-friendly mode, sometimes called Safe Mode or Kid Mode.
- Avoid one to one messaging with juniors either through an unmonitored platform or social media.

- Either disable chat for juniors or monitor where it is permitted.
- Monitor behaviour standards of both juniors and adults interacting with juniors.
- Apply appropriate sanctions in respect of inappropriate behaviour such as muting a player or excluding them.
- If any examples of abusive behaviour targeted at a junior is identified, report this to the Safeguarding Officer, rather than dealing with the incident themselves.

## Emergency Action and First Aid

Chess Organisers, coaches and leaders should be prepared with an action plan in the event of an emergency. This will include as a minimum:

- Access to first aid equipment.
- Plan for actions if no qualified first aider is available.
- Emergency evacuation plan.
- Telephone contact if the participant is a minor for consent and information purposes (although prior consent for minor first aid may also be gained in addition to this).
- Telephone contact to the Emergency Services.

## Stages of Acting on a Concern

### Stage 1

- Initially talk to a child/young person about what you are observing. It is okay to ask questions, for example: "I've noticed that you don't appear yourself today, is everything okay? But never use leading questions.
- Listen carefully to what the young person has to say and take it seriously. Act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying.
- It is not the responsibility of groups to investigate incidences of suspected child abuse but to gather information and refer only. Since you are not investigating, do not take photographs of injuries or video the child.
- Always explain to children and young people that any information they have given will have to be shared with others, if this indicates they and or other children are at risk of harm.
- Notify the organisation's named person for safeguarding.
- Record what was said as soon as possible after any disclosure; the person who receives the allegation or has the concern should complete the 'Recording Concerns/Allegations of Abuse, Harm or Neglect' Form found at appendix 1 and ensure it is signed and dated.
- Respect confidentiality and file documents securely.

### Stage 2

The named person(s) should take immediate action if there is a suspicion that a child has been abused or likely to be abused. In this situation, the named person should contact the Children and Young Peoples Service or police. Once you have made contact with Children and Young Peoples Services, they should within 24 hours of receiving your referral:

- Discuss reasons for the concern with the referrer.
- Involve and discuss with appropriate professionals/agencies.
- Establish if a criminal offence has been committed and involve the police.
- Take into consideration, based on available information, whether there are concerns about the child's health or developments.
- Look at a further enquiry, assessment or take immediate action if necessary.
- Consider timescales and how best to undertake it.

NB Parents / carers will need to be informed about any referral to Children & Young People's Service unless to do so would place the child at an increased risk of harm.

Sometimes concerns about a child may not be about abuse. You may be concerned that a child or family need some help in making sure all the child's needs are met to address a particular problem. Examples of this might be where a child is suffering because of poverty or has a disability and needs extra help. In these instances, you can get them help from the Children and Young Persons Services who can use Common Assessment Framework (CAF) as a means of support.

## Reporting a Concern

If you are worried about a vulnerable child and would like our help, **please don't stay silent.**

- Early Help Advice Hub on [01823 355803](tel:01823355803)
- Children's Social Care on [0300 123 2224](tel:03001232224)
- Consultation line for DSLs and GPs on [0300 123 3078](tel:03001233078) / [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)
- Police: **101** or in an emergency **999**

## Useful Contacts

- **NSPCC:** 0808 800 500
- **CHILDLINE:** 0800 1111

**In an emergency dial 999 for the Police – REMEMBER DO NOT DELAY**

## Extra Information for the Safeguarding Lead.

### People working with Children

This section is aimed at people who work with children and young people in all capacities, whether as paid workers or as volunteers. It brings together relevant information, documents and links about all aspects of safeguarding children and young people.

Please refer to link: <https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/working-with-children/> the [Local Protocols and Guidance page](#), which has downloadable versions of national and local multi-agency safeguarding children policies, procedures and other useful guidance.

### South West Child Protection Procedures

Somerset is one of the 12 Local Safeguarding Children Boards that make up the South West consortium that have developed the South West Child Protection Procedures (in conjunction with Tri.x).

[South West Child Protection Procedures](#)

### Working Together

Local authorities have overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. This includes specific duties in relation to children in need and children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, regardless of where they are found, under sections 17 and 47 of the Children Act 1989. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

#### [Working Together 2018](#)

#### **Contextual Safeguarding**

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

# Taunton Chess Club

<b><u>RECORDING CONCERNS/ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE, HARM OR NEGLECT FORM</u></b>			
To be completed by the person with the concern. Only fill in details that you know - do NOT investigate.			
Date and time of incident/disclosure:	Name of your organization/club/group:		
Name of child:	Date of birth:	Age:	Gender:
Name of parent/guardian of child:	Contact details (if known):		
Are you:  a) reporting your own concerns or  b) responding to concerns raised by someone else?  <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Name & role of person raising the concern:   Contact details:		
Names and details of anyone alleged to have caused the incident or to be the source of any concerns:	Names and details of anyone who has witnessed the incident or who shares the concerns:		
Please provide details of the incident or concerns you have, including times, dates, description of any injuries:			

<p>Have you spoken to the child's parents/carers? If so, please provide details of what was said. If not, please state the reason for this.</p> <p><i>Please note: concerns should be discussed with the family unless:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The view is that a family might be responsible for abusing the child.</i></li> <li><i>Someone may be put in danger by the parents being informed.</i></li> <li><i>Informing the family might interfere with a criminal investigation. (If any of these circumstances apply, consult with the local authority children's social care services to decide).</i></li> </ol>	
<p>Has the situation been discussed with the safeguarding officer? Yes / No (delete as appropriate) If so, please summarize the discussion:</p>          <p>After discussion with the safeguarding officer, do you still have child protection concerns? If in doubt you or the safeguarding officer should ring Children's Social Care Services for advice.</p>	
<p>Have you informed the statutory child protection authorities?</p> <p>Police: Yes / No      Date and time: Name and phone number of person spoken to:</p> <p>Local authority children's social care services: Yes / No Date and time: Name and phone number of person spoken to:</p> <p>Local authority designated office: Yes / No Date and time: Name and phone number of person spoken to:</p>	<p>Any action agreed with child protection authorities?</p>
<p>Where relevant, the reasons why a decision was taken not to refer those concerns to a statutory agency</p>	
<p>Where relevant, what has happened since referring to statutory agency/agencies? Include the date and nature of feedback from referral.</p>	
<p>Any further actions undertaken by you or the organization e.g. support to the child or family.</p>	
<p>Name of the person completing the report:</p>	<p>Signature of the person completing the report:</p>