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ESFA Safeguarding Newsletter - March 2025

Welcome to the second edition of the ESFA Safeguarding Newsletter!

In this issue, you'll find helpful links, important information, and key dates to note.

As always, Emma and Martin would like to take a moment to express their gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication in creating a safe environment for children to enjoy football.

How to report a concern

We've created a new, easy-to-follow flyer outlining the best way to report a safeguarding concern. This double-sided document also features information about the parent/carer safeguarding course, along with a convenient QR code for easy access. It will be distributed separately, so you can share it within your associations with coaches, parents, and players. You can download the flyer below:

[Download Flyer Here](#)

Play Safe Weekend 2024

A big thank you to all who supported Play Safe Weekend 2024. Here's a few photos from the week!



FA Guidance on listening to children

To encourage more active listening and involvement from children in creating football environments they find fun, safe and inclusive, The FA has produced a new set of guidance notes for grassroots clubs.

That's because opportunities to listen to children occur all the time in football – at times you may not even realise. For example, you may already talk with children about the training activities they'd like, or maybe you involve them in half-time team tactics?

As FA Head of Safeguarding Sue Ravenlaw comments: "Putting children at the heart of the things you do ensures a more positive, child-centred culture and helps create thriving community clubs."

"Ultimately we all want children to enjoy football for a lifetime - involving them now can foster their ongoing love of the game."

Please click on the link below to download the new guidance:

[Listening to children: New FA guidance notes](#)



Best Practise

A big thank you to Birmingham Primary SFA and Barnsley SFA for sharing the below resources.

We would love to share best practice from additional associations in the next version of this newsletter. Please contact Emma.Allen@schoolsfa.com if you would like to submit your best practice examples.



[Birmingham Primary Schools' FA Safeguarding Handbook](#)

[Barnsley Schools' FA Code of Conduct](#)

[Barnsley Schools' FA Anti Bullying Policy](#)

Editable Safeguarding Flyer

Another great way to circulate safeguarding contact details with your Association is to use this editable flyer. Whether you send this out via email or distribute physically, this is a great way to ensure parents have your safeguarding officers contact details.

[Download editable flyer here](#)



The flyer features a photograph of a football pitch with a crowd and a building labeled 'Newent Town AFC'. A red shield logo with 'PLAY SAFE' is in the top right. The main heading is 'CONCERNED?' in large blue letters. Below it, a series of questions asks if the reader is worried, feels something isn't right, or has seen something concerning. It states that if worried or concerned, one can talk to the club and that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. A section titled 'Your club safeguarding contact:' lists the name 'Edgar Smith', role 'Welfare Officer (Adult Teams)', phone '01234 5678', and email 'e.smith@email.com'. A small photo of Edgar Smith is to the right. At the bottom, it provides emergency contact information for the NSPCC Helpline (0800 800 5000) and the FA (safeguarding@thefa.com), along with the FA logo and a 'PLAY SAFE' logo.

Parental Engagements

If you receive an invitation to a Parental Engagement event, please encourage parents to participate.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and it is essential that parents and carers are informed about the ESFA Safeguarding measures in place and how they can raise any concerns.



WHY ?

- ESFA required under conditions of funding from The FA to check that parents, coaches and players are aware of the Safeguarding measures in place to protect the welfare of children
- The engagement sessions have the same intent as the SSVs
- Purpose to hold a discussion with parents, managers and players to ensure they have an understanding of Safeguarding measures in place and answer any questions.
- Held via Teams at a convenient time/day tailored around Associations needs/commitments.

Below you can download an editable poster to support this.

[Customisable Safeguarding Poster](#)

FA DBS Support

Please find link to First Advantage's new Football Customer Service Support Microsite.

<https://help.fadv.com/s/thefa>

This microsite has within it an IA integrated *Chatbot" which will provide answers and also links customers to FADVs dedicated FA support team during office hours.

The microsite also includes a "submit a query" section which opens a query service that goes direct to the FA specific FA DBS customer support along with details telephone numbers if you prefer to call the team.

Prevent

If you are worried that someone you know is being radicalised, ask for advice as soon as possible.

You can do this by: -

- Sharing concern with ESFA DSO
- Contacting local Police/Children's Services
- Using the Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800789 321.

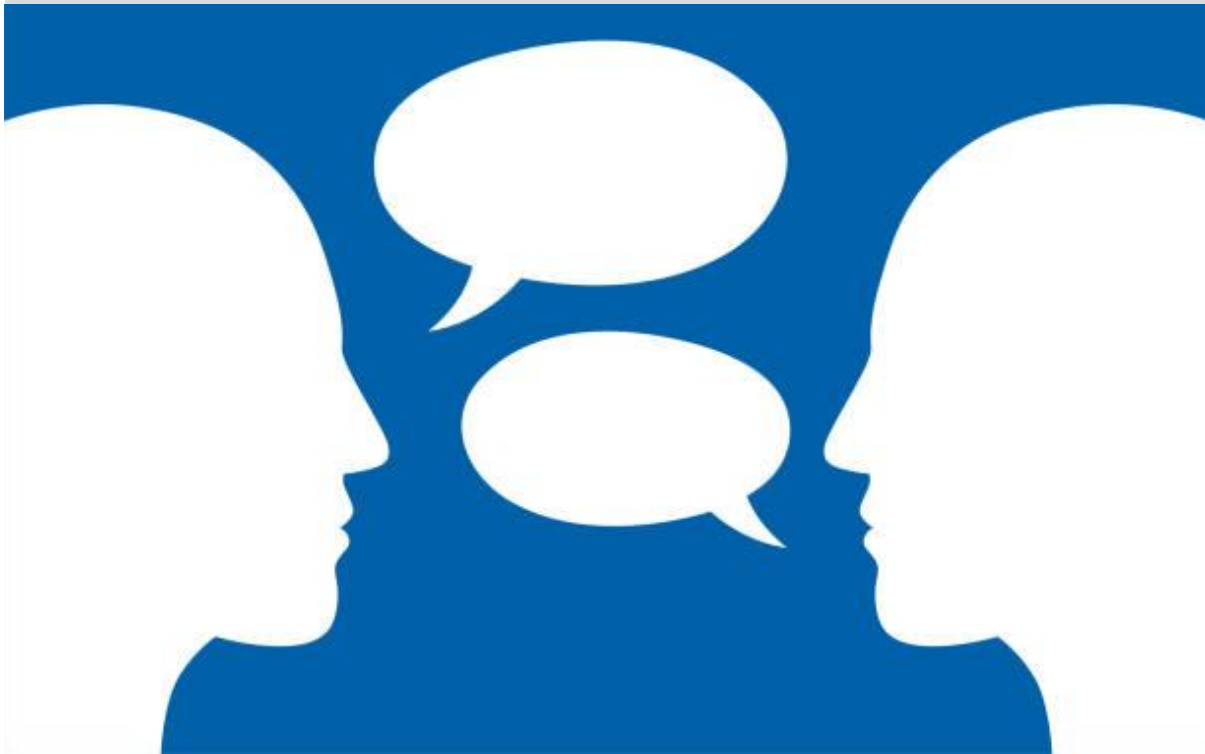
**ANTI-TERRORIST
HOTLINE**

0800 789 321

Your call could **save lives**

Watch this space!

Coming soon to the ESFA website – a "Talking Heads" production featuring Martin Duffield and Emma Allen, offering guidance on how to apply for an FA DBS, including the process for porting your current Enhanced DBS.



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