



**Stockport County  
Safeguarding Strategy  
2023-26**



**EDGELEY PARK**



# Introduction

Stockport County Football Club's Safeguarding Strategy is designed to ensure that the key principles of the Club's Safeguarding policy are clearly communicated, understood and followed by all those involved with and interacting with, the Club.

We want safeguarding to be recognised as an important part of the Club and we want everybody who forms a part of Stockport County, to feel safe and supported. We believe that this supports the Club's core values of attaining the highest level of professionalism and integrity.

Our strategic plan is also designed to support the principles and values outlined by the EFL's safeguarding strategy.





## **Vision**

**To create a safe and supportive environment, in which no child or adult will be worried about being harmed or exploited, during their interaction with our Club. To create a work place environment for all staff members, where they are encouraged to share concerns openly and trust the Club to respond appropriately.**

## **Values**

**We take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. We understand that we have a moral and legal responsibility to protect everybody who interacts with the Club from abuse and to provide a duty of care and safeguard the wellbeing of all.**

## **Commitment**

**We are committed to ensuring the highest standards of protection are in place to safeguard children and adults at risk.**





**We will work towards our vision, through a set of strategic plans and priority objectives:**

1. Leadership
2. Prevention
3. Protection
4. Education





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# 1. Leadership

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it is important for the Club to show there is a commitment to safeguarding throughout the entire Club, especially it's board members.**

## Strategic objective

Safeguarding to be embedded in the Club's organisational leadership, governance and culture.

## How we will achieve this

- Safeguarding to be a top priority
  - The board to champion safeguarding and contribute to raising safeguarding awareness
  - Safeguarding to be prioritised, discussed and endorsed at board level
  - The Club will resource its commitment to safeguarding excellence to staff who have an operational responsibility and expertise for keeping children, young people and adults at risk, safe.
- The board to clearly communicate and endorse the clubs safeguarding policies and procedures
  - The board to ensure they are trained to the appropriate level around safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.



## 2. Prevention

**Prevention is a key aim for the club and a commitment should be shown to prevent all forms of abuse.**

### Strategic objective

The Club will take all reasonable steps to create an environment, where it is as difficult as possible for any forms of abuse, exploitation or mistreatment of children, young people and adults at risk to take place.

### How we will achieve this

- We will implement effective and robust safer recruitment procedures to assess the suitability of all those employed. We will also implement effective safeguarding policies and procedures, which will apply to everybody involved with the Club. The procedures will be consistent with: legislation, statutory guidance, football authority rules, requirements, guidance and good practice.
- All those involved with Stockport County will be made aware of such policies and procedures and will be expected to make themselves aware of their content. Measures will be in place to evaluate the understanding of the policies and procedures.
- We will work collaboratively with stakeholders and partners and provide training, support and guidance, to meet our safeguarding standards and we will actively promote safeguarding in our partnership working.
- We will carefully assess and mitigate risk across the Club, including on matchday. This will be recorded and shared appropriately. We will create a risk register where risks will be monitored and reviewed.
- We will create a prevent duty policy where procedures and expectations will be embedded.
- The club will articulate its values and expectations of behaviour, in codes of ethics and conducts.



# 3. Protection

**Having clear, up to date and effective processes, for dealing with safeguarding concerns and working together with football and statutory authorities, enhances our capability to keep children, young people and adults at risk, safe.**

## Strategic objective

Concerns and complaints will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. We will work collaboratively to promote and protect the welfare of others, including our stakeholders, to improve safeguarding across the Club and share good practice.

## How we will achieve this

- We will take all safeguarding incidents, complaints, allegations or concerns seriously. We will ensure they are responded to in a timely manner and the correct action will be taken.
- We will implement effective policies and procedures for managing incidents, complaints, allegations, whistleblowing and concerns.
- Our response to the sharing of information regarding safeguarding complaints, concerns, whistleblowing, allegations and incidents, will be supportive.
- We will work collaboratively and have a multi-agency approach, to protecting others and responding to safeguarding concerns.
- Information is shared when necessary and appropriate, to protect children, young people and adults at risk.



# Safeguarding

Why am I here & what does my role cover?

- Safeguarding champions
- Safeguarding standards
- Barnardo's Audit
- Training opportunities
- Our role on matchday



# 4. Education

**We want all of our employees, everyone involved with our Club and any children, young people and adults at risk, to understand the importance of safeguarding. We want to help them understand what safeguarding is and how to report any issues or concerns. We feel that through education, the club can be in a stronger position to prevent concerns and to protect vulnerable people.**

## Strategic objective

We are committed to raising safeguarding awareness through training, education and through showing a listening and responsive culture. This way, everybody we engage with will feel empowered to identify and report concerns.

## How we will achieve this

- Those employed by the club or those who work closely with us, will have regular training around safeguarding.
- We will create an open and transparent culture, that gives people a voice and where opinions and thoughts are actively sought out.
- Safeguarding policies and procedures are easily accessible, understandable and are read by all those involved with the Club. Details of how to seek support and guidance are clearly recorded and known widely throughout the club.
- By understanding when to recognise and raise safeguarding concerns, we will ensure we create a safe working environment, where appropriate actions is taken when issues arise.
- We educate children, young people and adults at risk by helping them understand their rights to protection and where they can get help or advice if they need it.







# Responsibility

The Club will review all safeguarding activity through the safeguarding action plan. The action plan is built alongside the main aims of this strategy. This will be reported to the board regularly. The board itself will then review the safeguarding strategy and policy annually. This may change if legislation is reviewed.

Overall responsibility for safeguarding within the club lies with the Safeguarding Officer and the COO, who are responsible for ensuring that the safeguarding strategy, action plan and policies and procedures are implemented.

The Safeguarding Officer will hold primary responsibility for the delivery of the strategic objectives and the facilitation of the actions from the safeguarding action plan, with the help of safeguarding champions throughout the club.







# Monitoring Success

Our safeguarding strategy will be monitored by the following:

- Safeguarding strategy group meetings.
- Regular reporting at every board meeting.
- Policy implementation and review.
- Attendance at safeguarding best practice groups and peer reviews.
- Case reviews following incidents to ensure procedures are effective.
- Safeguarding objectives to be completed and reviewed.
- Actions to be reviewed from action plan regularly.





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