



**FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES**

**OUR COMMITMENT**

**TO SAFEGUARDING**



**FOOTBALL CAN AND DOES HAVE A VERY POWERFUL AND POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE. NOT ONLY CAN IT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENJOYMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT, BUT IT CAN ALSO DEVELOP VALUABLE QUALITIES SUCH AS SELF-ESTEEM, LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK. THESE POSITIVE EFFECTS WILL ONLY BE FELT IF SPORT IS IN THE RIGHT HANDS, IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO PLACE THE WELFARE OF ALL CHILDREN FIRST AND ADOPT PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT, PROTECT, AND EMPOWER THEM.**

The reality is that abuse does take place in sport and in some cases coaches and other trusted adults in sport have been convicted. The Football Association of Wales (“FAW”) believes that every adult has a legal and moral responsibility to protect children in football from abuse.

Adults in football also have a responsibility to be aware that there is potential to develop relationships of trust between themselves and a child. The welfare of the child is paramount and the FAW places the responsibility for not abusing trust on the person in the position of trust.

The FAW is committed to working in partnership with all agencies to ensure that information and training opportunities are available for everyone involved in football to guide them in best practice when working with all children. Adopting best practice will help to safeguarding children from potential abuse as well as protecting coaches and other adults in positions of responsibility from potential false allegations of abuse.

The FAW also recognises that the positive relationship that can develop between the adults involved in football and the child can lead them to talking about experiences in other aspects of their lives. The adult involved in football may also see changes in behaviour or other signs that give rise to concerns about a child’s welfare. In order to play its full part in safeguarding children, those involved in football need to be aware of how to respond to these concerns and how to communicate these concerns to relevant authorities.

These procedures have been revised to take account of current good practice and changing legislation and guidance. They offer guidelines to everyone in football in Wales i.e., administrators, coaches, instructors, teachers, parents, and players.

The FAW have launched a new Safeguarding Website to ensure that everyone in football in Wales has access to the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Practices and Procedures and to the necessary guidance to ensure safeguarding is embedded into our football environments.

The FAW have also relaunched the Behind the Line, Behind the Team campaign to eradicate negative sideline behaviour within our small sided and Junior football environments and to ensure player welfare is paramount.

We all have a duty of care towards young and vulnerable players and can help to protect them from abuse.