



Gedling Indoor Bowls Club Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

This policy was developed in line with England Indoor Bowls Association Policy and National Guidance, Including the Care Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

A Local Authority, Organisation or Club must act when it has 'reasonable cause to suspect that a person within its area is the subject of abuse.

Policy Statement

Gedling Indoor Bowls Club, hereafter known as "The Club" is committed to ensuring that everyone who participates in bowls can do so in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment. All participants are entitled to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse, bullying and neglect.

The Club is committed to have a zero tolerance of any form of abuse towards other members, casual participants or club staff or members of the public using the club. All members are expected to treat each other with civility and respect.

The Club believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, gender, disability, gender reassignment, marital /partnership status, race, religion, culture or sexual orientation. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, abuse includes: -

- Physical
- Verbal
- Bullying and Harassment
- Discrimination
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Financial
- Neglect by acts of omissions
- Self-Neglect
- Domestic /Marital
- Modern Slavery
- Radicalization

- **An Adult at Risk** is defined in The Care Act 2014 as: an individual aged 18 years and over who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) AND; is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, AND; as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

- **Safeguarding adults** is defined in Care and Support Statutory Guidance as: protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about

people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relations.

Signs of Abuse

There are a number of signs that may indicate that an adult is being abused:

- unexplained bruises, cuts or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present
- person has belongings or money going missing
- is not attending / no longer enjoying their sessions and is not responding to reminders from team members or coaches
- someone losing or gaining weight / an unkempt appearance or a deterioration in personal hygiene
- a change in the behaviour or confidence of a person, for example, a participant may be looking quiet and withdrawn when a relative comes to collect them from sessions in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile
- a fear of a particular group of people or individual
- a parent/carer always speaks for the person and doesn't allow them to make their own choices
- they may tell you / another person they are being abused – i.e., a disclosure

Responsibilities

The Board

The Board have overall responsibility to ensure this policy is adhered to and that all members are aware of their responsibilities within this policy.

The Board has the right to suspend membership from any club member who is found to have been in breach of this policy whilst investigations are being conducted and can withdraw membership without a refund or partial refund to any member who has been found to have breached this policy.

Details of Board Members can be found on the club website.

Safeguarding Officers

The Clubs Safeguarding Officers are there to provide support, advice and guidance to those who wish to raise safeguarding concerns, and where concerns are raised, they will where necessary raise this with a member of the board.

Contact details for Safeguarding Officers can be found on the Members Area of the website.

NOTE: Where a serious concern is raised with the Safeguarding Officer or any Member of the Board, a decision may be made in the interest of the individual to disclose the information wider for the protection of that individual.

All Members

It is the responsibility of all members of the Club to abide by this policy and raise any concerns to either a Safeguarding Officer or a Member of the Board.

Who is at a higher risk?

1. People with care and support needs, such as older or young people or people with disabilities, are more likely to be abused or neglected. They may be seen as an easy target and may be less likely to identify abuse themselves or to report it.
2. People with communication difficulties can be particularly at risk because they may not be able to alert others.

Sometimes individuals may not even be aware that they are being abused, and this is especially likely if they have a cognitive impairment. Abusers may try to prevent access to the person they abuse. So safeguarding is for people who, because of issues such as dementia, learning disability, mental ill-health, substance abuse, lifestyle issues, have care and support needs that may make them more vulnerable to abuse or neglect.

Policy

Any member of the club or casual players can raise concerns in relation to a club member. Where concerns are in relation to members of the public, casual players or Richard Herrod Staff, then members must follow the relevant Gedling Borough Council policy for complaints.

The Safeguarding Officer will act as the main point of contact for concerns to be raised, they will provide support, advice and guidance to any person raising a concern in relation to themselves or others, whether this is about the club or about themselves personally, this could be just to have a general confidential chat, of help in signposting. This will be conducted in line with the Key Principles of the Care Act 2014:

- Empowerment - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention – It is better to take action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need.
- Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
- Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

The Board will investigate concerns raised in relation to a member in an unbiased way and where necessary meet with those members involved to establish facts and decide on the best cause of action.

Any person who is under investigation for alleged abuse, are entitled to have prior warning on and representation at any meetings to discuss the allegations and can appeal any sanctions.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN NEED OF SUPPORT, ADVICE OR HELP IN ANY WAY PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY USING THE DETAILS BELOW

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

Nottinghamshire's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) operates between the hours of:

08:30-17:00 Monday to Thursday and 08:30-16:30 on Friday.

You can contact us on: 0300 500 80 90

**If you require an urgent response outside of these hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on:
0300 456 4546**