



## **BOWLS DEVON**

### **SAFEGUARDING IN DEVON**

Safeguarding in Devon is governed and supported by the **Policy and Guidance of Bowls England** which is reproduced on the Bowls Devon website for the guidance of Officers, Clubs, bowlers, parents and guardians.

This comprehensive document provides information and guidance about criminal record checks, coaching and what to do if there are safeguarding concerns.

**The Bowls England Guidance is the first and main point of reference for anyone in Devon with safeguarding queries or concerns.**

If after consulting the guidance, Clubs or individuals continue to have concerns or uncertainties, I will be pleased to advise how to proceed.

Email contact with full information and background is preferred for non urgent queries.

Any matters relating to urgent, current safeguarding issues relating to a specific child or children should always be made by telephone to the **NSPCC Helpline (0800 800 5000)** which can be contacted to talk through any concerns that have arisen. This can be done anonymously if necessary.

Thank you for your interest in safeguarding in Devon.

**Dave Bateman, Safeguarding Officer - Bowls Devon**

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# **BOWLS DEVON**

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

Everyone who participates in Lawn Bowling in Devon is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. Bowls Devon and affiliated Bowling Clubs have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for young people or vulnerable adults, fellow bowlers, coaches and volunteers provide them with the highest possible standards of care and support.

Bowls Devon is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone in our sport in Devon accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from harm and abuse.

The aim of this policy is to promote good practice, providing children, young people and vulnerable adults with appropriate safety/protection whilst involved with lawn bowling in Devon and to allow club members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific protection issues.

**A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18. (Children's Act 1989)**

**A vulnerable adult is defined as someone aged 18 or over:**

- Who is, or may be, in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability**
  - Who is, or may be, unable to take care of himself/herself, or unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation**
- (Department of Health 2002)**

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## **Statement of Policy**

Bowls Devon is committed to the following:

- ✓ the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount
- ✓ all children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in bowls in a safe and enjoyable environment
- ✓ to taking all reasonable steps to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings
- ✓ all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- ✓ to working in partnership with parents and children and vulnerable adults and their carers.

### **1.2 Safeguarding Officer**

Bowls Devon will appoint a suitable person to be the Safeguarding Officer. The role of this officer will be to support outdoor Bowling Clubs in Devon to ensure that this policy is understood and implemented.



This policy will be continually monitored and will be reviewed every 3 years or whenever there is a major change within Bowls England, Bowls Devon or in relevant legislation or practice guidance.