

# Protocol for Responding to Allegations of Abuse

## Farley Cricket Club

Under no circumstances should a Club member carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to the 'Co-ordinator', who is nominated by Farley Cricket Club to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- The Co-ordinator may also be required by conditions of the Club Insurance Policy to immediately inform the Insurance Company.
- In the absence of the Co-ordinator, or if the suspicions in any way involve the Co-ordinator, then the report should be made to the 'Deputy Co-ordinator'. If the suspicions implicate both the Co-ordinator and the Deputy Co-ordinator, then the report should be made in the first instance to the County Welfare Officer.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with Club procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Co-ordinator, the absence of the Co-ordinator or Deputy Co-ordinator should not delay referral to the Social Services Department.
- The Club will support the Co-ordinator / Deputy Co-ordinator in their roles, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies or seek advice from the ECB, although the Club hope that members of the Club will use the procedure outlined in this document. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Co-ordinator / Deputy Co-ordinator has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Co-ordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct.
- The role of the Co-ordinator / Deputy Co-ordinator is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to the ECB to investigate the matter in accordance with the Complaints and Discipline Procedure.

### ***Allegations of physical injury or neglect***

If a child has a physical injury or symptom of neglect, the Co-ordinator / Deputy Co-ordinator will:

Contact the County Welfare Officer or the ECB Child Protection Manager for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.

Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.

For lesser concerns, encourage parent / carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.

Where the parent / carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Social Services direct for advice.

Seek and follow advice given by ECB, if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Social Services.

### ***Allegations of sexual abuse***

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Co-ordinator / Deputy Co-ordinator will:

Contact the County Welfare Officer or the ECB Child Protection Manager for advice, or the Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or the Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent / carer or anyone else.

The Co-ordinator reserves the right to consult with one other Club leader.

Seek and follow the advice given by the ECB if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Social Services / Police.

Farley Cricket Club, January 2008