



Child Protection Protocol



PURPOSE & SCOPE –

The purpose of this protocol is to provide guidance to all those volunteers involved with Lancing Rangers Football club on how to deal with the issues of whether a child is, or suspected to be at risk of significant harm. This protocol will ensure that there is adequate guidance in place so that a child is not left unprotected. The safety and well being of the child is the paramount consideration for all those involved. It will also consider the safety and well-being of the club and those individuals associated to the club. The club has a responsibility to protect the children associated to it.

WHY ARE PROCEDURES NECESSARY? –

Child protection is a term used to describe the responsibilities and activities undertaken to prevent or stop children being abused or ill treated. Child abuse is distressing for all that have the child's interest at heart and can be difficult to accept that it may have occurred. The danger is that under reaction may result from a lack of acceptance and children may remain unprotected and exposed to further abuse.

CHILD ABUSE –

Definitions of child abuse that require a referral are –

- Physical Abuse, (Including fabricated or induced illness).
- Neglect.
- Sexual Abuse.
- Emotional – Verbal Abuse.

The first indication that a child or young person is being abused is not necessarily the presence of injuries. Concerns may be around the child or young person's remarks or behaviour. The situation may seem serious initially; it is worth remembering that prompt help and support to a family may prevent minor incidents escalating further into major incidents and more serious.

Anyone worried for a child or young person at risk should in the first instance contact the Lancing Rangers Football Club Child Protection Officer (see page 6), the Club Chairman or the Club Secretary to discuss his or her concerns.

SUSPECTED ABUSE BY MEMBERS OF THE CLUB – LANCING RANGERS.

Whatever the source, any allegation or suspicion against a member of the club must be taken seriously. In cases involving members of the club, consideration must be given to urgent action being taken to protect the child concerned. Including 'suspending / refraining' the club member suspected. This is to protect the child and the suspected person involved pending the necessary referral and involvement of the appropriate agency.



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All relevant information about such an allegation or suspicion of a club member should be recorded accurately and appropriately. These records can then be made available to any or all agencies. Such as Department of Health, Education, Police or Social Services. (Consideration of data Protection etc). It is a recommendation that this information is held securely and if on a P.C then it is password protected.

Those making a referral should not rely on leaving a message to do so. A referral must be confirmed in writing within 24 hours using the club's referral form. The person making the referral must check with social services after 48 hours to ascertain what if any action is to be taken. Alternatively the appointed club 'person' needs to do this.

Information that may be required may include any or all of the following –
Shape of injury / colour of skin / if skin is broken / any swelling anywhere / scab, blister or bleeding / if mobility is reduced / if the child is hot – cold etc or if there is any pain at all from the child.

These are sensitive issues and accusations must be avoided under any circumstances.

DOCUMENTS / RECORDS & RECORDING –

Record keeping is an important part of the accountability of the club. Serving to provide, promote and re-enforce the high standing and good reputation of the club. All records need to be clear, accurate and ensure that all information is documented. Including accounts of those involved or family members. These records are an essential source of evidence for investigations and enquiries and may also be required for disclosure in court proceedings. Clarity, straightforward, concise records with a clear differentiation between facts and opinions.