

# 01 Background

All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in sport in an enjoyable and safe environment.

Safeguarding adults fits within the duty of care and welfare that sports and activity organisations have towards their participants.

# Why it matters

Participation in sport and activity can play an important role in helping people to live fulfilling lives. 'Accessible leisure facilities, safe town centre and community groups ... can reduce the social and physical isolation which may increase the risk of abuse or neglect' 14.12. The Care Act 2014.

The Care Act 2014 put the safeguarding of adults onto a statutory footing. The sport and physical activity sectors have regular contact with many people and so have a crucial role in the support, identification and reporting of adults who may be at risk of harm.

# 02

# 07

## Information:

One important difference between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children is an adult's right to self-determination. Adults may choose not to act at all to protect themselves and only in extreme circumstances will the law intervene; if an adult is assessed to lack capacity in that area, or where the concerns involve children (e.g. living in the same household). There absolutely must be a culture which embraces the adult themselves and informs and consults them on all decisions about them.

"What good is it making someone safer if it merely makes them miserable?" Lord Justice Munby asks in 'What Price Dignity?' (2010)

With the introduction of the Care Act 2014 there has been a cultural shift towards Making Safeguarding Personal within the safeguarding process. This is a shift from prioritizing outcomes demanded by bureaucratic systems (i.e. to know what happened; who did what to whom) to outcomes being defined by the person at the centre of the safeguarding process.

Making Safeguarding Personal is as relevant in sport and activity as it is in health and social care.

# 06



## Safeguarding Adults in Sport

## What can I do?

Familiarise yourself with and promote the [Safeguarding Adults Framework](#) when speaking to sport and social clubs.

Be clear about what is safeguarding and how those at sports and social clubs can make [referrals](#).

If you notice that a sports/social club does not have a sufficient safeguarding adult policy. Discuss this with them guide them for further advice: [Ann Craft Trust](#)

# 03

## Information:

Safeguarding adults in sport and physical activity is an important responsibility to take on to ensure wider participation and safe access for everyone. Sport and physical activity organisations that demonstrate best practice in adult safeguarding, commit to both.

Many sport and physical activity organisations support both children and adults and it may seem easier to have one safeguarding policy and procedures. However, there are a number of valid reasons why this is not recommended:

- The issues for children and adults are not the same
- The definitions and terms used differ
  - Procedures for reporting abuse and handling cases are not the same
  - There is different legislation and policy
  - Having one policy and procedure can in fact complicate matters

# 05

# 04