



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Vauxhall Motors Football club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. As a Club we subscribe to The Football Association's safeguarding children policy and procedures and endorse and adopt the policy statement contained within this document.

1. *The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that*
 - *The child's welfare is, and must always be the paramount consideration*
 - *All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.*
 - *All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately*
 - *Working in partnership with other organisations children and young people and their parents/ carers is essential*

2. *Vauxhall Motors Football Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. Safeguarding applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.*

3. *Vauxhall Motors F.C endorse and adopt The Responsible recruitment guidelines for recruiting Volunteers and we will:*
 - *Request identification documents*
 - *As a minimum meet and chat with applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them*
 - *Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone*
 - *Where eligible acquire an FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations*

All current Vauxhall Motors Football club members working in eligible role, with children and young people – such as managers and coaches are required to hold an in- date FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or has approached us to become part of Vauxhall Motor's Football Club, guidance will be sought from Cheshire Football Association. It is noted and accepted that the FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the CRC process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a History of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' in football.

Vauxhall Motors F.C – Safeguarding Children Policy

4. Vauxhall Motors F.C supports The FA'S whistleblowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA safeguarding team on 0800 169 1863 alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's social care or the NSPCC.
Vauxhall Motors F.C encourages everyone to know about the Whistle Blowing Policy and utilise it if necessary.
5. Vauxhall Motors F.C has appointed a club welfare officer in line with the FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare officers workshop training provided by the FA.

The club welfare officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding the concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The club Welfare officer will liaise directly with Cheshire FA county Welfare officer and will be familiar with the procedures of referring any concerns. They will also provide a proactive role in raising awareness of RESPECT, poor practice and abuse amongst club members

6. Vauxhall Motors F.C acknowledges and endorses the FA'S identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur all players or parents/ carers should be able to report and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Any incidents of bullying need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer.
7. RESPECT codes of conduct for players, parents/carers, spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Vauxhall Motors F.C . In order to validate these RESPECT codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by Cheshire Football Association in more serious circumstances.
8. Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important you report your concerns – no action is not an option.
 - If you are worried about a child, then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.
 - If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either deal with the situation themselves or seek advice from the County Welfare Officer.
 - If the concerns are more serious, possible child abuse where possible contact the Club Welfare officer first and then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social care
 - If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance, tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your club welfare officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the County FA.

If at any time you are unable to contact your Club Welfare Officer, or the matter is clearly serious then you can contact the County Welfare Officer directly.

For further information on raising a concern The FA'S Safeguarding Children policy and procedures is available via www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding

Vauxhall Motors Football Club Welfare officer – Rebecca Holland 07846347458 or email rebeccaholland1@live.co.uk

Cheshire FA – 01606871166

Cheshire Children's services - 0300 123 7047 or out of hours 01244977277

Wirral Children's Services – 0151 606 6557 or out of hours 0151 677 6557

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000

Policy completion date November 2017.