

# Safeguarding Children Policy – Vauxhall Motors Football Club



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. Children's rights, as set out by the UNCRC, must be respected, and promoted throughout the game of football. With this in mind:

- 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.
- Every child has the right to take part in football in a safe, protective, and inclusive environment free from all forms of maltreatment, harassment, abuse, or exploitation.
- The child is to be put before the player, referee, supporter, or any other role they may have in football.
- Any form of maltreatment or abuse disrespects the rights of the child and will not be tolerated.
- Children have the right to participate and be heard across the game and have their views and opinions be taken in consideration in all decisions and actions concerning them.

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.

#### **4. Whistleblowing**

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. Additionally, the UEFA Integrity Platform allows for concerns to be raised (including anonymous reporting). Written complaints can also be sent to [childsafeguarding@uefa.ch](mailto:childsafeguarding@uefa.ch), or a person of trust within UEFA can be spoken to directly in order to report a concern.

#### **5.Club Welfare officer and Board Safeguarding Champion**

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.

The board safeguarding champion ensures that club responsibilities and accountabilities are understood by board members and are embedded in club processes and operational plans, they check and challenge to ensure the interests of children and young people are paramount in all club activities and that the best interests of any adults at risk are given due consideration.

#### **6.Bullying**

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 then you may wish to contact the board safeguarding champion, however if the matter is clearly serious then you can contact the County Welfare Officer directly.

#### **9.Postion of Trust**

Harming or abusing a child is never acceptable under any circumstances and must be reported to the relevant statutory agency, in line with the relevant reporting procedures. Poor Practice is unacceptable in football and must be treated seriously with appropriate actions taken. It's expected that all adult-child relationships maintain clear and appropriate boundaries at all times, are supportive, positive, and aimed at improving the child's skills, development, and progress.

Adult-child relationships should all focus on the respective activity/event. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (the "Act") prohibits someone in a position of trust, within certain regulated environments, to engage in sexual activity with a child in their care, including where a child is over the age of consent (16 or over). Whilst sport, including football, is not a regulated environment under the Act, Football considers it appropriate to apply this principle and it is underpinned by our safeguarding regulations, rules and policies.

**Position of Trust means** any position where an individual is in a relationship of trust with any person with responsibility and/or authority in relation to that person, and shall include without limitation those who care for, advise, supervise, train, coach, teach, manage, tutor, mentor, assess, develop, guide, treat or provide therapy to children. No intimate or sexual relationship should take place while a member of staff or volunteer is in a Position of Trust with a child.

In addition, inappropriate, intimate, or sexual relationships between an adult and a child aged 16 and 17 may be unlawful, irrespective of gender and sexual orientation. Therefore, if an adult engages in an intimate or sexual relationship with an under-18, whether they are a player, or another role as a young referee, coach, volunteer etc, is a breach of The FA's Regulations, and as such may result in disciplinary action. Where appropriate, a referral will be made to the statutory agencies, including the Police, applicable Local Authority bodies, and to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Where a Position of Trust exists, it does not make any difference whether or not the relationship is consensual. The imbalance of power makes it an abuse of the Position of Trust.

### **Contacts and Associated documents**

**If there is a concern that a child is at risk of immediate harm, contact should be made with either the Police or Local Authority Children's Services or the NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000.**

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](http://www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding)

#### **Vauxhall Motors Football Club Welfare officer**

Rebecca Holland 07846 347458 or email [rebeccaholland1@live.co.uk](mailto:rebeccaholland1@live.co.uk)

#### **Board Safeguarding Champion**

Jon waring 07768 640618 or email [jon.waring@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk](mailto:jon.waring@vauxhallmotorsfc.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

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