



Safeguarding and Protecting Children & Young People Policy

VCSA has adopted the FA Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures. These are to be accompanied alongside this document.

Revised April 2020



Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People Policy

1. Introduction to the Policy

Vallance Community Sports Association (VCSA) is committed to the belief that all young people have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled young people and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. VCSA is committed to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved in our programmes through the operation of our safeguarding policies and accompanying documents.

VCSA has a duty of care to safeguard from harm all young people involved in any programme and activity directly that we deliver. VCSA also has the responsibility to ensure that within all the programmes we deliver, any partner organisations must also have established policies and provide protection to young people.

VCSA is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone in the organisation whether they are paid staff or volunteers, accepts their responsibilities to safeguard young people from harm and abuse. This means to follow procedures to protect young people and report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities.

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, providing young people with appropriate safety/protection whilst in the care of VCSA and to allow all staff to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.



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2. Policy Statement

VCSA is committed to the following:

- The welfare of the young person is paramount.
- That all young people, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in any VCSA activity in a fun and safe environment.
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect young people from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- That all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- That all VCSA staff including self-employed contractors or volunteers who work with young people will be recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility, and will be provided with guidance and training in good practice and child protection procedures.
- To work in partnership with parents and young people to safeguard and protect all young people.

Communication of the Policy

To ensure the successful implementation of this policy it is essential that we at VCSA communicate to our entire staff, partners, young people and their parents our commitment to safeguarding young people.

In addition, access to the Policy is available to all staff, partners, parents, participants and the general public at large via the VCSA website. This ensures people have access to this information, and are able to understand how the policy will be implemented, and the process they should follow should an issue arise.

Monitoring and Review

The implementation of procedures will be regularly monitored and reviewed. The Sports Development Manager will regularly report progress, challenges, difficulties, achievements gaps and areas where changes are required to the management committee.

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years in April or whenever there is a major change in the organisation or in relevant legislation.



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3. FA Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

VCSA is a FA Charter Standard Club. Its core provision is based around delivering grass roots football to children and young people. To this effect **VCSA has adopted the FA Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures**. These documents have been created specifically with grass roots football clubs in mind. A copy will be given to VCSA employees, volunteers or members, who have regular contact with young people who are under eighteen.



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4. Promoting Good Practice

Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers

All employees, volunteers and members, who come into contact with children under eighteen, will receive training on following the procedures as recommended in the above. They will receive training following the procedures as recommended in the FA Safeguarding document as part of an induction. To ensure best practice in recruiting staff and volunteers VCSA will:

- 1) Request and follow up with two references before appointing
- 2) Require a DBS Checks
- 3) Develop a role profile for staff and volunteers
- 4) As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant and where possible conduct interviews

Duty of Care

VCSA is an organisation that is committed to the support, development and care of young people. We take our Duty of Care for all those under the age of eighteen very seriously. Any employee, volunteer or member who comes into regular contact with vulnerable young players and anyone under eighteen, should always be vigilant and if they feel any concern about a young person for any reason should report this to the designated person responsible for taking the matter forward, as in the procedure outlined on p.21 & 22 of the FA Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures document. It should also be said that any concerns felt about what would suggest inappropriate behaviour towards vulnerable young players and members of VCSA should be aired as soon as possible to VCSA's nominated Child Welfare Officer.

Prevention & Care of Injury

VCSA has an insurance to cover group personal accident and public liability from a company that has a specialised football relating the national youth football scheme and other sporting clubs catering to 5-25 year old players.

All sports workers and volunteers must undergo the recognised first aid course, which is appropriate to their sport, including the treatment and management of injury.

During training sessions and matches there must be a designated individual who is equipped to deliver first aid and will be overall responsible to ensure that all correct procedures are followed in the case of injury. There must also be easy access to a mobile phone. A first aid kit, which is acceptable within the football association guidelines, should always be readily



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available at any training session or match. It should be checked before the commencement of any activity.

Checks must be made before every training session and match to ensure that there is a good access to all entries and exits.

Checks must be made to ensure that all fire exits have clear access before and during any session.

Before any training/match, the pitch must be thoroughly scrutinised to ensure that:

- a. There is no broken glass, other sharp objects, any obstacles likely to cause a trip or fall, slippery patches – i.e. oil, rotten/greasy food, etc., likely to cause a skid/fall.
- b. There are no animal faeces likely to cause a skid/fall or infection.
- c. All kit and equipment must be inspected before any sports session to ensure that all is in good working order and does not threaten any danger.
- d. A thorough inspection of equipment must be carried out to ensure that it is up to date and safe and that the kit is in good repair and working order. Equipment and kit are renewed/replaced regularly at least annually or when in need of replacement.
- e. No spectators, including parents, are on the pitch during training or matches
- f. All match venues have adequate changing facilities, with separate changing rooms and showers for both children and adults of both genders.
- g. Parents/guardians “drop off & pick up” children on time and that they are all delivered home safely.

Transport & Travel

VCSA has become a member of Tower Hamlets Community Transport. A number of volunteers & coaches have passed their Midas Driving Tests in order to drive players to away fixtures.

On all journeys there are always two adults on board; one to drive and one to supervise and to ensure the safety of players and that they stay in their seats and wear a safety belt in transit. If it is a long journey, both adults must have passed their Midas Driving Test.

Parents/Guardians’ Roles & Responsibilities

Signed Consent Forms must be obtained from parents/guardians of all young players under the age of eighteen, together with any essential medical details, before they join VCSA. These will be checked regularly with the parents/guardians. Signed consent forms will also be required from parents/guardians before any long journeys or trips.



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Named Child Welfare Officer: Junel Uddin
Telephone: 07956 835 811
Email: vallancefc@aol.com

The Child Protection Advice Line

The Child Protection Advice Line is a service provided as part of Tower Hamlets Children, Schools and Families Directorate's Integrated Pathways & Support Team.

This service is available to schools and children's centre's, education support staff, parents/ carers and pupils and to voluntary and community organisations in Tower Hamlets. If there is a concern about the welfare of a child or young person and the Designated Teacher/ Person for Child Protection, parent or pupil would like to talk it through then they can contact the Child Protection Advice Line and speak to the Duty Officer.

The Duty Officer will be able to discuss the concern, assist in deciding whether a formal child protection referral is appropriate, and facilitate the reporting of a formal child protection referral in accordance with Tower Hamlets Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures and to offer advice.

The Child Protection Advice Line operates between 9.00am and 5.00pm except at weekends and on public holidays. If the concern arises outside of the hours operated by the Advice Line and it is believed the child may be at immediate risk the Children's Social Care out of Hours Team or the Police should be contacted without delay.



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Important Contact Telephone Numbers

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| Child Protection Advice Line | 020 7364 3444 |
| Integrated Pathways & Support Team (IPST) | 020 7364 2972 020 7364 2904 020 7364 5601 020 7364 5606 |
| Children's Social Care Out of Hours Team (5.00pm onwards) | 020 7364 4079 |
| Police Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) | 020 8217 6484 (or use 999 if not available) |
| NSPCC | 0808 800 5000 Text: 88858 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk Online: nspcc.org.uk/reportconcern |
| Child Line | 0800 1111 |
| FA Child Protection Team | 020 7745 4649 |