

BAWFC Child Protection Policy

1 Introduction

Bristol Academy Women's Football Club (BAWFC) has a statutory duty to ensure that the Club functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people associated with the Club.

Reference is made to 'children and young people'. This term is used to mean 'those under the age of 18'. It is recognised that some adults are also vulnerable to abuse, accordingly, the procedures may be applied (with appropriate adaptations) to allegations of abuse and the protection of vulnerable adults.

2 Policy Statement

BAWFC regards with the highest priority the health, safety and welfare of everyone involved in activities that are the responsibility of the Club.

The Club has a duty to ensure that its staff fulfil their responsibilities to prevent child abuse and to report any abuse discovered or suspected. The procedures adopted are in line with the South West Child Protection Procedures (further details available at www.swcpp.org.uk).

3 Policy Objectives

BAWFC is committed to:

- Providing a safe environment for children, young and vulnerable people.
- Where possible, identifying children, young and vulnerable people who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.
- Initiating appropriate action to see that such children, young and vulnerable people are kept safe.

4 Policy Implementation

We will:

- Establish procedures for reporting and dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff.
- Take appropriate action when reports of alleged abuse in the home are received.

- Raise awareness of issues relating to the welfare of children, young and vulnerable people and the promotion of a safe environment for the children, young and vulnerable people within the Club.
- Aid the identification of children, young and vulnerable people at risk of significant harm, and providing procedures for reporting concerns.
- Ensure staff recruitment conforms to current legislation.

5 Responsibilities

Directors

- Directors are responsible for ensuring a Child Protection Policy is in place and procedures relating to that policy are adhered to.
- That the Club operates safe recruitment procedures and ensures that all appropriate checks are carried out including CRB, List 99 and Vetting and Barring Scheme implemented in Autumn 2008.
- There is a designated member of staff who is assigned to act upon child protection concerns.
- That a named Director has a link/oversight responsibility for ensuring that the policies are reviewed and in place. This position is currently held by Kevin Hamblin.

Staff

- All staff have responsibility for ensuring that **ALL** suspected cases of child abuse, whether heard directly from the alleged victim, or as 'hearsay' from other spectators or staff, are reported directly to Kevin Hamblin or one of the designated staff. Alleged victims need not necessarily be players of the Club – **ALL** cases must be reported.
- It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that all visiting coaches not employed by the club, but working with children and young and vulnerable people on behalf of the Club, to ensure that they are CRB checked, comply with Vetting and Barring procedures and are suitable for working with this group.

Designated Senior Staff Member

- Kevin Hamblin has been designated to be responsible to the Directors for the implementation and conduct of these policies and liaison with the relevant authorities who will initiate any investigation of abuse.

6 Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed annually by Kevin Hamblin, and submitted to the Directors for the BAWFC approval; with the next review date to take place prior to June 2011.