



What should I do if I have a safeguarding concern?

REMEMBER – SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY

What is a safeguarding concern?

This is not an exhaustive list but could include some concerns that arise:

- Something a young person has said to you – a disclosure.
- Signs of abuse (see separate document for what these signs could be).
- Allegations against a club member, official or volunteer.
- Allegations against a parent/carer, friend, family member or individual known to the young person not involved in hockey.
- Bullying.
- A breach of England Hockey’s Code of Ethics and Behaviour.
- Observation of inappropriate behaviour.
- Anything that makes you feel uncomfortable based on inappropriate behaviour of an adult or changes in behaviour in a young person.
- Behaviour contrary to England Hockey’s Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy and Procedures.
- Reading or hearing something of concern about a member of the club in the media.

What should I do if I have a concern?

- Remain calm and reassure the young person that they have done the right thing by telling you.
- Keep an open mind, listen carefully and take the report seriously.
- Do not promise to keep anything a secret or confidential but do explain that the information will only be shared with the people who need to know it (e.g., the Welfare Officer).
- Ask open questions for clarification but avoid leading questions that prompt a particular answer. Use question prompts such as ‘can you tell me about’, ‘can you describe’.
- Tell them who the information will be shared with and what you will do next.
- Report the incident using the reporting form where possible to the Welfare Officer (07452 814219). If the concern is about the Welfare Officer, contact England Hockey Safeguarding
- If the situation is an emergency or the young person is in imminent danger, call the police on 999 or Essex Social Care Hub on 0345 603 7627 Monday-Friday 8.45am-5.15pm or 0345 606 1212 outside of these hours. Ask for the Children’s and Family Hub and explain it is a priority call.

What should I not do if I have a concern?

- Do not investigate the concern – that is for the professionals.
- Don’t panic or make promises that you can’t keep.
- Do not make a young person unnecessarily repeat information or question if they are telling the truth.
- Don’t repeat the information to anyone who doesn’t need to know.
- Don’t delay in reporting the information to the Welfare Officer, England Hockey or the emergency services as appropriate.
- Do not approach the alleged abuser.