

Safeguarding News

ECB Safeguarding Team Updates



December 2022

The ECB is pleased to announce that following a period of consultation, the ECB Safeguarding Strategy has been signed off for publication and is now available on our website. This overarching document will guide our work moving forward. The strategy is intended to outline the organisational commitment to safeguarding, and underpins the broader commitments agreed within Inspiring Generations until 2024.

This is a clear representation of the work currently being delivered across the game, as well as future safeguarding priorities.

The Strategy has been developed in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders, including young people, who told us what we could do across the game to help them feel safe and be safe.

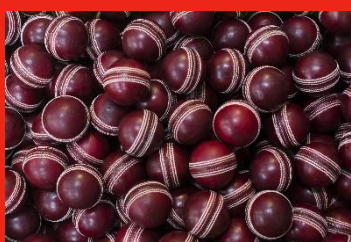


www.ecb.co.uk/safeguarding

Additionally, you will find a copy of our new Safeguarding Policy Statement [HERE](#).

CPA Safeguarding Audit

The ECB 'deep-dive' audit



We are now more than halfway through our audit of the 44 First Class Clubs, County Boards and National Clubs.

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WE ARE
ENGLAND
CRICKET

New ECB Safeguarding Team Members

Welcome to both Ieuan Watkins and Alistair Suddery who have recently joined the team.

New Safeguarding Panel

The End of RMG!

The Referral Management Group (RMG) has managed risk within cricket for many years.

There is a new case management procedure incorporating risk to children and adults.

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December 2022

New ECB Safeguarding Team Members

By Sara Niblock

The ECB Safeguarding Team is made up of three teams.

The Reactive Team managed by **Helen Robson**, dealing with case management and the monitoring of individuals of concern within the game.

Safeguarding Development across the ECB which is led by **Richard Watson**.

The Proactive Team has been led by **Marcus Puddephatt** whom many of you will have interacted with over the last few years. Marcus has been seconded to a new position as Head of Recreational Game Discipline, a wonderful opportunity for him, I am sure you will all join me in wishing him luck.

His role is being filled on an interim basis by **Ieuan Watkins**.



Ieuan comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience, with more than a decade of cricket safeguarding experience at Glamorgan County Cricket Club and Cricket Wales. He is also a former chair of our Referral Management Group (RMG).

Since arriving, he has recruited, trained and deployed Event Safeguarding Officers at every Hundred match this year.

He is now leading on the CPA Safeguarding Audits across England and Wales. His next task will be to revisit some of the Safe Hands guidance documents and policy.

Ieuan will be known by many of you, but you can expect to see him supporting and perhaps visiting you alongside his team, **Claire Bassett, Ashleigh Scott, Mick Richards** and **Victoria Wiegleb**.

We'd also like to welcome **Alistair Suddery** to the team who joins us as Post Investigation Case Officer. Alistair brings over 17 years of experience within child abuse investigation, domestic abuse and offender management.

Alistair's role is to work alongside County Safeguarding Officers to implement supervision deeds at club level, to enable individuals to play while ensuring the potential risk to children in cricket is managed effectively.

Disability Cricket A Thriving Game

By Stuart Murphy

Safeguarding within Disability Cricket.

Disability cricket has been thriving in recent years. The Disability Premier League held a showpiece final at Gloucestershire CCC in September, with the game televised live on Sky Sports.

The Disability Pathway consists of the Super 9 (hardball) and D40 (incrediball) competitions. Competing in the D40 are Hampshire, Middlesex, Surrey, Lancashire, Sussex, Essex, Wales NC, Yorkshire, Shropshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire & Cheshire. Competing in the S9 are Essex, Middlesex, Hampshire, Kent, Isle of Wight, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Dorset, Wales NC, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Shropshire, Yorkshire, Cheshire and Lancashire.

Disability cricket is available across England and Wales for individuals with Learning Disabilities (LD), Physical Disabilities (PD) and Deaf. Individual disability is assessed through health service assessment, Deaf players must evidence a hearing loss of 26Db or above in their worse ear. PD players require a Health Service Certificate of Diagnosis and LD players must demonstrate significant limitation in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.



Adam Fowler, a proud member of Briton Ferry Steel Cricket Club and Wales.

The Disability Pathway is very well supported by National Disabilities Pathway Lead Richard Hill MBE. There is specialist safeguarding support with Stuart Murphy available across the pathway.

Stuart can be contacted on 07876 848890.

Disability Pathway Coaches and Managers are being encouraged to increase their safeguarding knowledge and have been encouraged to attend Safe Hands training over the closed season – we would be grateful if colleagues in Counties would consider offering free places to volunteers fulfilling these roles.

December 2022

CPA Safeguarding Audit

The 'deep-dive' audit of County Boards, First Class Counties and National Clubs

By Ieuan Watkins

The ECB Pro-Active Team have begun safeguarding audits across England and Wales. Safeguarding is a top priority for the ECB.

Providing a safe environment for children and adults is an essential part of what we do across the recreational and professional game.

Compliance is driven by the ECB Safeguarding Team who report to the Regulatory Committee, a sub-com of the main ECB Board.

The Regulatory Committee has set safeguarding as a Tier 1 objective within the County Partnership Agreement (CPA). Safeguarding compliance is therefore a 'must do' as there is a direct link to funding counties receive.

Alongside funding, there is a legal expectation to provide a safe environment with law and procedures in England and Wales describing very clearly, that safeguarding as everyone's responsibility.

The ECB documents our minimum standards within Safe Hands. Here, the expectations that will provide a safe environment are visible to all.

The County Safeguarding Advisors, Mick Richards, Victoria Wiegleb, Ashleigh Scott and Claire Bassett have been out and about assessing Counties against the Safe hands and CPA Standards.

These audits are a deep-dive of the standards in place in each area. These audits are not a 'tell me', but a 'show me', designed to test what is in place operationally and strategically.

The CPA Safeguarding Standards for 2022

- Compliance with Safe Hands Policy
- Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
- Safeguarding Officer
- Safeguarding Board Lead
- Staff Training
- Safe Recruitment
- Listening to Children
- Safeguarding Reporting
- Safeguarding at Venues and Hired Facilities

With over half of the 44 audits now completed, initial learnings indicate the need for more visible policies, support for County Safeguarding Officers, strategic visibility and challenge, Adults at Risk and obtaining the Voice of the Child.

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility"

Particularly encouraging has been an obvious professionalisation of the County Safeguarding Officer role. Many counties have recruited expertise in the safeguarding area, resulting in tangible and obvious improvement in safeguarding standards. In time, the ECB plan to move to external audits, with safeguarding specialists from outside cricket conducting the deep-dive assessments.

Our sincere thanks to counties for their hard work, support and commitment to safeguarding.



New Safeguarding Panel

Move from RMG to 'Safeguarding Panel'

The new Safeguarding Procedure was published on 1st October 2022. It includes some long overdue developments extending the scope of the procedures to Adults and includes important changes to suspensions and appeals.

You may have also seen that we have recently been recruiting for new legally qualified panel chairs and panel members. Nine new panel members have been appointed to sit alongside our existing panel members, with two new chairs.

The first Safeguarding Panel met on the 18th of October.

FAQ's

In response to feedback from clubs the case management team will be shortly be producing a frequently asked questions document to support club safeguarding officers in navigating our investigation and safeguarding disciplinary processes, including managing interim suspensions under the new procedure.

December 2022

Safeguarding at The Hundred

Event Safeguarding Officers

By *Leuan Watkins*



Event Safeguarding Officers were recruited and deployed at each of the eight Hundred venues.

Nick May & Leuan Watkins in action at Lord's (they are the two in the centre!).

The ECB Match Day Teams identified a clear need to provide specialist safeguarding provision during the tournament, so, for the 2022 tournament, we recruited, trained and deployed eight specialist Event Safeguarding Officers (ESO's).

These individuals were present at each of the 2022 fixtures, working alongside the ECB and Ground Safety/Stewarding Teams.

The ESO's dealt with 126 incidents across the tournament. The incidents were varied, relating to both child and adult safeguarding matters.

Examples being:

- The management of lost or found children (youngest being just 4 years of age)
- Children or adults who had become unwell, including an adult who was supervising children
- Relocation of a family to an alcohol free stand for religious reasons
- Children attending the ground unaccompanied, including a 9 year old boy!

Alongside these incidents, they were able to add to the match day experience for attendees, pro-actively relocating families, supporting autograph signing sessions and assisting the Stewards and ECB Match Day teams and making a real difference.

The ESO's were an overwhelming success, so much so that discussions are now taking place to determine where and when they should be deployed in the future, including discussions on T20 Blast, ODI, Test, IT20 and other major fixtures.



ECB Safeguarding Conference

Loughborough
28th Feb – 2nd March

By *Graham Hurst*

In the next few weeks, we will be sending further details to Counties regarding the ECB Safeguarding Conference 2023. As previously, this will be held at Burleigh Court in Loughborough.

Board Safeguarding Leads are invited to attend Tuesday evening and Wednesday day and County Safeguarding Officers Wednesday evening and Thursday day.

Attendance is expected as part of the County Partnership Arrangement and continued professional development. The conference will include guest speakers, workshops and updates from the ECB Safeguarding Team.

The theme this year will be 'Listening'. As ever, this will be an opportunity to explore and discuss some of the challenges we face and how we can work collaboratively to deliver Cricket safely.

An evening meal and overnight accommodation will be provided, please note that no travel expenses will be provided so you are encouraged to speak to your CCB regarding this.

If you have any challenges around travel please do let us know.



December 2022



Safeguarding Young Cricketers Training

A brand new SYC Course will be with you in the New Year.

By Ashleigh Scott

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, so whatever your role, everyone should understand the importance of keeping children, young people and adults safe.

With this in mind, we are launching an updated version of the online Safeguarding Young Cricketers (SYC) course.

The SYC course is a vital resource for individuals with responsibility within our game, helping people who deliver cricket to understand their safeguarding responsibilities. The old course needed a refresh and we were keen to open the course up to more roles across our game.

The new course will again be provided completely free of charge and available to everyone, our anticipated launch being January 2023.

The updated version will consist of a refreshed one-hour generic course suitable for everyone, no matter your role in cricket. There will be an additional four shorter modules with targeted messages for specific audiences:

- Coaches and Activators
- Umpires and Scorers
- Committee Members
- Captains and Team Managers

County Boards will be able to monitor compliance through CRM, where you will be able to measure who has completed the generic and specific modules.

We are excited by the launch of this development and we hope you agree this will be a hugely positive step forward for safeguarding in cricket.



December 2022

Managing Estranged Parents or Domestic Disputes at Cricket Clubs

By Ieuan Watkins

Recent England and Wales statistics show that around 1 in 5 marriages will end in divorce before the 10th anniversary. Separations between couples can be straightforward, but can also be complex and challenging, such complexity amplified where children are involved.

We have been asked by clubs and counties on several occasions regarding how best to manage children within cricket where parents are estranged, particularly where there is dispute or a challenging separation.

The law here is somewhat complex, including challenging rules around Parental Responsibility, potentially Section 8 Children Act Court Orders, (such as Care Orders, Specific Issue Order, Prohibited Steps Order, or Child Arrangements Order), the Court may have issued particular instructions around care arrangements.

We do not expect cricket clubs or Club Safeguarding Officers to be experts in this area.

Within cricket, we should primarily remember that the welfare of the child is paramount and that any decisions we make should centre around the wellbeing and welfare of children within our game.

Ideally estranged parents will remember this and put the child at the center of decision making, however we recognise that sometimes, sadly, this will not always be the case. Estranged parents should (ordinarily) make decisions together around how children live their lives. Whilst routine decisions can often be taken independently, major decisions should be agreed between parties.

Where clubs are aware that parents are estranged, it is good practice to:

- Share information equally/ identically to both parents
- Not take sides
- When issuing Player Profile Forms for example, ask both parents to complete the form
- Include both parents in communications by the club (generic or specific)

The exception here would be where an order is issued preventing or limiting communication between one or both parties, (where this happens the club is usually informed by one of the adults involved).

Where a parent's action, or proposed action, conflicts with the club's ability to act in the child's best interests, the club should try to resolve the problem with that parent but avoid becoming involved in conflict. We must remember to put the child's welfare at the centre of our decision making, threatening and/or abusive behaviour is not acceptable and should be reported.

Clubs should avoid becoming involved in any disagreement between parents but might want to suggest that where parents cannot agree they seek independent legal advice about obtaining a court order setting out exactly what decisions each parent can make in respect of the child (in particular parents could consider a Specific- Issue or Prohibited Steps Order as appropriate).

Should a child become unwell or injured within cricket, consent may be needed for medical emergency

treatment. The Children Act 1989, section 3 provides that people who do not have parental responsibility but nonetheless have care of a child may do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare.

This would allow clubs to act 'in loco parentis', in place of a parent, or allow them to seek consent from a parent who may not hold parental responsibility.

It would clearly be reasonable for a club to take a child who for example needs to have a wound stitched up to hospital, but the parents, including the non-resident parent who has asked to be kept informed of events involving the child, should be informed as soon as possible.

As your National Governing Body, we recognise that this is a complex area, and that this guidance note cannot possibly cover all eventualities when dealing with complex separations involving children.

Clubs are encouraged to be tactful, honest, and fair – but always ensuring that we remember that the child's welfare is paramount. If behaviour is potentially harmful to the child, this must be immediately reported.

County Safeguarding Officers can be contacted for advice and support.

December 2022



Recording Software to include Low Level Concerns

By Richard Watson

The ECB Safeguarding Team are actively seeking to purchase and deliver software for the recording of all safeguarding concerns. As the National Governing Body for cricket, the ECB currently has no capability to clearly understand sub threshold concerns about individuals or clubs in the network (often referred to as Low Level Concerns).

This limits our ability to monitor national trends, track individuals who move counties and to have a benchmarking tool to measure ongoing risks. This additionally limits our ability to learn lessons from below threshold concerns which would in turn inform policy and our proactive approach to safeguarding in cricket.

The ability to track concerns across all cricket participation to allow a clear picture whilst enabling consistent management of concerns will provide the ECB and the network with an opportunity to fully understand risks within the game.

To do this we need to support you as the network by providing a tool to help collate this information and then allow the opportunity to see a clearer England and Wales view. We have started this process both internally and externally to look at what the network requires to support the recording of concerns.

We are grateful to the small group of County Safeguarding officers who provided initial feedback on our work in this area.

Any new software will need to dovetail with other ECB systems, so we will be taking care to ensure we get this right first time.

We will keep you updated with any progress, but we plan to have an interim solution in place ahead of the 2023 season.