



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2018-0108, 30 April 2018

Safeguarding children and young people in sport

Westminster Hall, Tuesday 1 May 2018,
9.30am

A Westminster Hall debate on Safeguarding children and young people in sport is scheduled for Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 9.30am. The Member leading the debate is Bambos Charalambous MP.

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Compiler: Sarah Pepin
Subject specialists: John Woodhouse (Sport), Hannah Cromarty

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1. Background

[Sport England](#) is responsible for the development of grassroots sport in England ([sportscotland](#), [Sport Wales](#), and [Sport Northern Ireland](#) are responsible in those countries). [UK Sport](#) funds “high performance” sports (i.e. Olympic and Paralympic). Both organisations distribute National Lottery and Government money.

Individual national governing bodies are responsible for managing specific sports (e.g. the Football Association, the Lawn Tennis Association).

In October 2016, Sport England and UK Sport published a [Code for Sports Governance](#) setting out the standards that all organisations hoping to receive public funding for sport and physical activity must comply with. The Code, along with individual funding agreements between UK Sport and/or Sport England and the recipient bodies (which will range from large NGBs to small community groups) is designed to ensure that bodies that work with children and vulnerable adults have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place.

In December 2017, in [response](#) to a written question on what the Government was doing “to ensure that sporting bodies are sufficiently well-regulated to prevent abuse within those organisations”, Tracey Crouch, the Sports Minister, referred to the Code and to the NSPCC’s Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU):

As part of their funding conditions with Sport England and UK Sport, all National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place as well as meeting and - where appropriate - maintaining the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport (the 'Standards') which are issued by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU). This requirement also forms part of the standards set out in the Code for Sports Governance which applies to all organisations in receipt of public and/or National Lottery funding from Sport England and UK Sport.

The CPSU is Sport England's expert safeguarding partner and conducts an annual 'health check' of all NGBs, reporting back to Sport England to ensure this funding condition is being met. The Standards provide a framework for all those involved in sport to help them create a safe sporting environment for children and young people and to protect them from harm. They also seek to provide a benchmark to help those involved in sport make informed decisions, and to promote good practice and challenge practice that is harmful to children.

The Code for Sports Governance makes it clear that it is vital that sports bodies receiving money from Sport England or UK Sport have appropriate policies and processes in place to ensure good governance and transparency in their organisations. This includes ensuring that bodies meet their obligations to protect and safeguard

the welfare of those participating in their sports, as well as volunteers and employees.¹

1.1 Sport England's role in safeguarding

Sport England's safeguarding role is three fold:

- Funding part of the Child Protection in Sports Unit (together with the NSPCC);
- Funding the [Ann Craft Trust](#), which works to safeguard adults in sport and activity; and
- Managing safeguarding complaints that it receives directly (usually with the support of the CPSU and/or the Ann Craft Trust).

Sport England has worked with the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) to build the capacity of sports to safeguard children and young people in and through sport. It has invested £1 million over two years (2015-17) to help the CPSU support sports organisations with expert child protection advice and guidance.

Sport England is working with the Ann Craft Trust to develop similar standards for adults at risk to those that are already in place for child protection.

Safeguarding in martial arts

On 1 March 2018, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Sport England announced a new Safeguarding Code for Martial Arts which will come into effect later this year. The Code can be achieved by governing bodies, associations and organisations. It can also be achieved by clubs or by instructors, coaches and teachers outside of a club structure. British Judo, GB Taekwondo and British Wrestling have achieved the Advanced Standards for Safeguarding and have automatically gained the Safeguarding Code in Martial Arts standard.

Further information on the areas the Code will cover can be found on Sport England's [website](#).

Resources

Sport England provides a range of resources for parents, carers, sports clubs and leisure centres. This includes:

- **Parents and carers:** <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/safeguarding/safeguarding-advice-for-parents-and-carers/>
- **Organisations, associations and bodies:** <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/safeguarding/safeguarding-by-associations-organisations-and-bodies/>

¹ [Written Question 117641 \[Sports: Regulation\] 11 December 2017](#)

- **Clubmark:** <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/safeguarding/clubmark/>
- **Companies and non-traditional sports:** <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/safeguarding/companies-non-traditional-sports/>
- **Sign-posters:** <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/safeguarding/sign-posters/>
- **School and leisure providers:** <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/safeguarding/schools-and-leisure-providers/>

1.2 Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)

The [Child Protection in Sport Unit \(CPSU\)](#) is a partnership between the NSPCC, Sport England, Sport Northern Ireland and Sport Wales. Its mission is to “build the capacity of sports to safeguard children and young people in and through sport and to enable sports organisations to lead the way in keeping children safe from harm”.² In Scotland, there is a similar partnership between Children 1st and sportscotland.

The CPSU provides an accreditation scheme for national governing bodies of sports and county sports partnerships and provides advice and training to a range of sport and leisure organisations. It has produced a range of child protection resources for training and child protection policy development, including [Standards for safeguarding and protecting children in sport](#) and [The framework for maintaining and embedding safeguarding for children in and through sport](#).

The CPSU has also published [information](#) for parents on what to look for in a sports club.

1.3 Clubmark – voluntary accreditation for community sports clubs

[Clubmark](#) is Sport England’s cross sport accreditation scheme for community sports clubs. According to the Club Matters website, an accredited club “is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages as well as helping parents and carers know that they’re choosing the right Club for their young people”.³ The website also notes that some NGBs for sport have their own sport specific accreditation (which incorporates the Clubmark criteria). There is a [list](#) of the NGBs who currently offer a Sport Specific Accreditation.

In order to gain Clubmark accreditation sports clubs must meet the following duty of care and welfare criteria:

² [Child Protection in Sport Unit webpage About Us](#) [Accessed 26 April 2018]

³ [Club Matter website, What is Clubmark](#) [Accessed 26 April 2018]

- The Club ensures that all activities take place in a safe environment that comply with legal requirements.
- The Club has necessary provision in place for the safeguarding and welfare of its members ('Club child & adult at risk Safeguarding Policy that meets statutory requirements).
- There are clear systems to report, respond to and manage safeguarding concerns or allegations of poor practice or abuse that arise.
- Coaches, volunteers, instructors, club activators and Club Welfare Officers receive an induction which includes information about safeguarding responsibilities, policy and procedures, and are appropriately trained in Safeguarding and Child Protection.⁴

1.4 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

There is a Library Briefing Paper, [The retention and disclosure of criminal records](#) (CBP 6441, 12 August 2015). This summarises the rules in England and Wales on the retention and disclosure of conviction and non-conviction information held on the Police National Computer and the Police National Database.

1.5 Independent review of the duty of care in sport

The previous Government established an [Independent Working Group](#), led by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, to review the duty of care that sport has towards participants. The aim of the review was "to develop a comprehensive plan for how government and the whole sporting system can more effectively look after people who take part in grassroots sport and people who perform at the elite level, including those on a talent pathway".⁵ The safeguarding of children and young people was one of the factors to be addressed. The public consultation closed on 23 May 2016. According to GOV.UK, the Government is still analysing the consultation responses.

1.6 Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard children

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and young people to protect them from harm. The Government has published statutory guidance - [Working together to safeguard children](#) - on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in England. The guidance defines 'safeguarding' as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;

⁴ [Club Matters website, Clubmark Criteria: Duty of Care and Welfare](#) [Accessed 26 April 2018]

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sport-duty-of-care-review-call-for-evidence> [Accessed 26 April 2018]

- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.⁶

The guidance applies to local authority Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) Chairs and senior managers within organisations who commission and provide services for children and families, including social workers and professionals from health services, adult services, the police, academy trusts, education, youth justice services and **the voluntary and community sector who have contact with children and young people**.

Specifically, the guidance covers:

- the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
- a clear framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to monitor the effectiveness of local services.

The guidance sets out the Government's view that "Whilst local authorities play a lead role, safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play".⁷

Revising the statutory guidance

The Government has [consulted](#) on significant revisions to the statutory guidance on Working Together to Safeguard Children, to reflect the changes to local multi-agency arrangements established through the *Children and Social Work Act 2017*. In particular, the 2017 Act replaces Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three **safeguarding partners** (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups). The Act places a duty on those partners to make arrangements for themselves and **relevant agencies** they deem appropriate, to work together for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area. A full list of relevant agencies will be published in regulations.

The public consultation on revising the guidance on Working Together to Safeguard Children ran from 25 October and 31 December 2017. The Government has subsequently published its [response to the consultation](#) outlining the next steps, which will include updating the current statutory guidance.⁸ Amongst other measures, the Government has confirmed that **sports organisations** will be added to the list of relevant agencies:

Finally, in response to specific feedback from respondents, the statutory instrument will be revised to include entries for sports

⁶ Department for Education, [Working together to safeguard children](#), last updated February 2017, p5

⁷ Department for Education, [Working together to safeguard children](#), last updated February 2017, p5

⁸ HM Government, [Changes to statutory guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children; and new regulations - Government consultation response](#), 26 February 2018

organisations and religious organisations. This will help to address concerns that the draft guidance did not sufficiently reflect the importance of these organisations in safeguarding children.⁹

⁹ HM Government, [Changes to statutory guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children; and new regulations - Government consultation response](#), 26 February 2018, p6

2. News and blogs

Scottish Legal News

[Mandatory disclosure checks proposed for sports coaches working with vulnerable people](#)

26 April 2018

Lexology

[Abuse allegations and sport - the story continues](#)

26 March 2018

Football Association

[FA releases document outlining safeguarding work being done throughout football](#)

13 November 2017

2.1 Press

BBC News

[Mandatory disclosure checks for youth sport coaches proposed](#)

25 April 2018

Guardian

[Barry Bennell appeals against 30-year prison sentence for sexual offences](#)

10 April 2018

Guardian

[FA sexual abuse inquiry head ready to investigate any clubs who fail to cooperate](#)

28 March 2018

iNews

[Football prepares to pay the bill for the misery of its abusive past](#)

20 March 2018

Guardian

[Sports minister introduces martial arts safeguarding code after abuse scandals](#)

1 March 2018

Independent

[Age of consent for athlete-coach relationships to rise to 18, says sports minister Tracey Crouch](#)

16 November 2017

3. Parliamentary Business

3.1 Debates

[Historical Sexual Abuse \(Football\)](#)

HC Deb 29 November 2016 c1399-407

3.2 Parliamentary Questions

[Sports: Regulation](#)

Asked by: Dr Rosena Allin-Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that sporting bodies are sufficiently well-regulated to prevent abuse within those organisations.

Answered by: Tracey Crouch | DCMS

As part of their funding conditions with Sport England and UK Sport, all National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place as well as meeting and - where appropriate - maintaining the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport (the 'Standards') which are issued by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU). This requirement also forms part of the standards set out in the Code for Sports Governance which applies to all organisations in receipt of public and/or National Lottery funding from Sport England and UK Sport.

The CPSU is Sport England's expert safeguarding partner and conducts an annual 'health check' of all NGBs, reporting back to Sport England to ensure this funding condition is being met. The Standards provide a framework for all those involved in sport to help them create a safe sporting environment for children and young people and to protect them from harm. They also seek to provide a benchmark to help those involved in sport make informed decisions, and to promote good practice and challenge practice that is harmful to children.

The Code for Sports Governance makes it clear that it is vital that sports bodies receiving money from Sport England or UK Sport have appropriate policies and processes in place to ensure good governance and transparency in their organisations. This includes ensuring that bodies meet their obligations to protect and safeguard the welfare of those participating in their sports, as well as volunteers and employees.

11 December 2017 | Written question | 117641

[British Parachute Association](#)**Asked by: Justin Madders**

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what representations she has received about the adequacy of the safeguarding policy of the British Parachute Association.

Answered by: Tracey Crouch | DCMS

My department has not received any representations about the adequacy of the safeguarding policy of the British Parachute Association.

The British Parachute Association is not in receipt of any funding from Sport England or UK Sport, and therefore are not required to comply with the Code for Sports Governance which requires all funded sports organisations to adhere to the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport issued by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit.

All organisations that provide sport, culture and leisure services should have appropriate arrangements for the safeguarding of children, as stated in the government's statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children. Sport England encourages all sports to adopt the safeguarding standards set out in the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport.

7 December 2017 | Written question | 116546

[Offences Against Children: Sports](#)**Asked by: Justin Madders**

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she has taken to tackle child abuse in sport.

Answered by: Tracey Crouch | DCMS

The Government is completely committed to doing all it can to ensure people can participate in sport in safe and secure environments.

I wrote to all sports funded through Sport England, the arm's length body responsible for community sport in England, in November 2016 asking them to ensure their safeguarding processes were as robust as possible. The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for DCMS also jointly chaired a meeting in December 2016 with a number of national governing bodies and other key sports organisations, Sport England, the police and the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit to consider how safeguarding in sport can be as robust as possible. We plan to reconvene this group in the New Year to discuss the progress made since the original meeting.

Since April 2017, organisations in receipt of public funding from Sport England and UK Sport are required to meet the standards set out in the Code for Sports Governance. The Code contains specific obligations about safeguarding, including a requirement for national governing bodies to adhere to the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport, which are issued by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit. Sport England have also ensured that all new award agreements have the

relevant terms in place to ensure good child protection policies and procedures are used by the applicants. In addition, every organisation that received a grant from Sport England in the last five years has been reminded of its obligations on child protection and the relevant provisions in its funding contract.

The Government is currently considering the recommendations made by Baroness Grey-Thompson's Duty of Care review, which included a specific chapter on safeguarding. Proposals are being developed to extend the definition of a 'position of trust' in the Sexual Offences Act to include sports coaches. The details of this work will be announced in due course.

7 December 2017 | Written question | 116539

[Voluntary Work: Sports](#)

Asked by: Justin Madders

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what her Department's policy is on DBS checks for volunteers in sporting activities.

Answered by: Tracey Crouch | DCMS

Anyone involved in sport in a role that involves regular contact with or responsibility for children or vulnerable adults should have appropriate background checks.

Organisations in receipt of public funding from Sport England and UK Sport since April 2017 are required to meet the standards set out in the Code for Sports Governance. The Code contains specific obligations about safeguarding, including a requirement to adhere to the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport, which are issued by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit. These standards state that sport organisations must have policies and procedures in place to safely recruit staff and volunteers who work with children and for assessing their suitability for such roles. DBS checks are one tool that can be used. Safeguarding checks required by legislation and guidance must also be carried out.

7 December 2017 | Written question | 116536

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Mims Davies

I am passionate about getting more women into sport, especially girls in the Eastleigh constituency and across the UK. This Government have done great work with the "This Girl Can" campaign. We must, though, ensure that everyone taking part in sport is properly protected. What is the Department doing to ensure appropriate safeguarding for all children participating in sport?

Answered by: Tracey Crouch | DCMS

Mr Speaker, I hope you will forgive me, but it is actually a year ago today that the former Crewe Alexandra player Andy Woodward reported

historical allegations. He was incredibly brave to do so. As a consequence of his courage, he has ensured that the Government and other parts of the sporting sector have taken the issue incredibly seriously. I am pleased to announce that I have secured ministerial agreement with the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to change laws on the position of trust to include sports coaches.

HC Deb 16 November 2017 c567

[Football Association](#)

Asked by: Jo Stevens

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the Football Association's safeguarding procedures.

Answered by: Tracey Crouch | DCMS

As with all funded sports, the Football Association is required to meet the obligations set out in Sport England and UK Sport's funding agreements, which require appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures to be put in place and adherence to the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport (the 'Standards') issued by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU). The CPSU conducts an annual review of National Governing Bodies and reports back to ensure this funding condition is being met. During 2017, the CPSU has reported no concerns with the Football Association who continue to meet and maintain the advance Standards.

16 October 2017 | Written question | 106871

4. Organisations and further reading

- [The retention and disclosure of criminal records](#), Commons Library briefing paper SN 6441, 12 August 2015

- Department for Education and others, [Safeguarding children](#)

A collection of the Government policies on safeguarding

Department for Education and others, [Working Together to Safeguard Children: revisions to statutory guidance](#), Consultation outcome, 26 February 2018

Department for Education, [Working together to safeguard children: statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children](#), 16 February 2017

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, [Sport Duty of Care Review: call for evidence](#), Closed consultation, 12 April 2016

- [Child Protection in Sport Unit](#) (CPSU)

CPSU, [Standards for safeguarding and protecting children in sport](#)

CPSU, [Develop and improve standards and framework](#)

CPSU, [Information for parents and carers](#)

CPSU, [Basic safeguarding training](#)

CPSU, [Resource library](#)

- Sport England, [Safeguarding](#)

- Sport England, [Club Matters](#)

Club Matters, [A-Z of National Governing Bodies \(NGBs\) with Sport Specific Accreditation](#)

Club Matters, [Clubmark](#)

Club Matters, [Clubmark Criteria: Duty of Care and Welfare](#)

- UK Coaching, [Safeguarding](#)

- Football Association, [Safeguarding](#)

Scottish Football Association, [Children's rights and wellbeing](#)

UK Athletics, [Welfare and safeguarding](#)

Lawn Tennis Association, [Safeguarding in tennis](#)

England and Wales Cricket Board, [Safeguarding and protecting children in cricket](#)

Rugby League, [Safeguarding children](#)

England Rugby, [Safeguarding](#)

- Sport and Recreation Alliance, [Safeguarding children in sport](#)
- UNICEF, [Safeguarding in sport](#)

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