

Bradenham Bowls Club

Hale Road, Bradenham. IP25 7RA

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Safeguarding Policy Statement by Bradenham Bowls Club

v1.0 Feb 2023

Introduction

The complex safeguarding requirements that must be met by organisations with formal responsibilities for protection of children and adults have been considered by the Management Committee of Bradenham Bowls Club.

Bradenham Bowls Club (BBC) is a small voluntary sports club that has its own premises that arranges outdoor matches home and away against opposing teams of similar demographics between April & September and social events between October & March using its own premises, or a local community venue controlled by another organisation. It is an unincorporated association, is not a legal entity, has no employees, and carries out no permanent activities apart from Bowls matches. Despite those conditions, which inherently limit the ability of the Club to deliver effective safeguarding actions, safeguarding is considered and addressed.

This policy and procedure are written to enable the Club's Management Committee to address safeguarding concerns.

Policy

Bradenham Bowls Club Management Committee has a duty of care to its members and other individuals attending events but does not hold any statutory authority. Matters of concern that remain unresolved will be reported to the relevant safeguarding authority, Bowls England. The police are to be contacted if there are urgent concerns.

BBC recognises that some people are, potentially or actually, at risk of harm. Where risk is suspected, the Club will aim to respond in a prompt and effective manner to any situation where there is a potential or perceived risk of harm. The Club recognises that there are various forms of abuse which can be perpetrated by supervising adults, volunteers, members, relatives, friends, and neighbours. The Club will neither condone nor tolerate any form of abuse or neglect and believes that all people should be able to live in an environment which is safe and free from harm.

It is not appropriate for the BBC to take the lead role in any Safeguarding enquiry. Where there are remaining concerns regarding abuse or neglect the Club will contact the relevant statutory authority.

The Club Management Committee will monitor the implementation of this policy and procedure annually.

Procedure

In following this safeguarding procedure, the BBC will strive to ensure individuals have their human and civil rights upheld regardless of ethnic origin, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religious or cultural background. Individuals are to be:

- given privacy.
- treated with dignity and respect.
- allowed free choice.
- given the protection of the law.

Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional and neglect.

The BBC will make every effort to respect the confidentiality of any information that is obtained under this policy and procedure, however due to the possible seriousness of allegations confidentiality is not absolute. Information will be shared with the relevant safeguarding authority or police on a 'need-to-know' basis only.

Safeguarding of Children

The BBC is not an organisation subject to the 'Prevent duty' for children. Members of the BBC Management Committee are volunteers and, unless necessary for another activity, are not subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks. For those reasons, though children are welcome, it is the policy of the BBC that no child (anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday) is to attend a BBC event unless accompanied by an adult who retains responsibility for the safety of the child. Though responsibility should remain with the accompanying adult, volunteers are to remain vigilant for signs that something might be wrong.

Principles for safeguarding of children:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.

Safeguarding of Adults

Volunteers are to remain vigilant for signs that something might be wrong. It may come in the form of a disclosure, complaint, an expression of concern or a witnessed event. Particular attention is to be given to someone lacking capacity because of an illness or disability such as a mental health problem, dementia, or a learning disability. Those conditions can be indicated by an inability to do one or more of the following four things:

- Understand information given to them.
- Retain information long enough to be able to decide.
- Weigh up the information available to make a decision.
- Communicate their decision.

Principles for safeguarding of adults:

- Support and encouragement to make their own decisions and give informed consent.
- Prevention by taking action before harm occurs.
- Taking a proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Provision of appropriate levels of protection to keep individuals safe.
- Be accountable and transparent in delivering safeguarding.

Actions to be taken if there are Safeguarding Concerns

As a consequence of the nature of BBC activities (occasional social events open to all members of the local community) the Club has no long term engagement with families, Clubs of friends or individuals. Safeguarding situations encountered, real or perceived, are therefore likely to be restricted to those that develop rapidly or become apparent through a single or short series of inappropriate action. With the temporary nature of BBC activities and The Club lack of statutory authority, situations encountered needs to be addressed sensitively and promptly.

All actions taken to address a confirmed safeguarding situation are to be noted and retained in confidence by the Management Committee for the minimum possible time. As the BBC is not a legal entity and has no authority to resolve confirmed safeguarding situations, formal resolution must be undertaken by an official agency. Any notes made by members of the Management Committee are to be destroyed at the earliest possible time after the relevant official agency confirms that they are no longer needed.

Everyone within the Management Committee should understand what to do if a safeguarding concern occurs and where to go to get help, support, and advice.

Initial Actions

- Any member of the Management Committee who becomes aware of a potential or actual safeguarding concern should obtain the assistance of other members of the committee to discreetly clarify the situation.
- If a cause for concern is discovered the initial aim is to separate the individual considered at risk of harm from the person judged responsible for causing the risk if that can be agreed with both individuals and be done discreetly and calmly.
- At no time is any single person involved in addressing a safeguarding situation left alone with either the suspected perpetrator or the individual judged to be at risk.
- If it is, then possible to discuss the situation with the individual considered at risk they are to be asked to express their preferred way ahead and given support to enact that decision. Regard is to be given to the possibility that an individual's capacity to make decisions might be impaired, or, as a child they might not be able to make a reasoned decision.
- Help is to be sought from official agencies if the individual considered at risk of harm is a child and there is any doubt about the safety of that child.

Further Response

If, with the limited resources available to the Club, it is not possible to resolve the safeguarding concern promptly, satisfactorily, and calmly by following the initial actions, help is to be sought from official agencies such as the police or its governing body.

- **Police**
Emergency – 999
Non-emergency – 101
- **Bowls England**
01926 334609
- **Social Services**
Norfolk County Council – via website or 0344 800 8020

This policy is set for review on or before 20nd July 2025



Signed

22nd July 2023

Date

Name P. Clements

Hon Secretary, Bradenham Bowls Club