

## **APPENDIX 5 – ADVICE ON SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR THE SPORTS SECTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

All staff and volunteers should receive particular skills and safeguarding training appropriate to their role. Training should be updated and reviewed regularly for staff/volunteers and in line with changing legislation.

All staff and volunteers (including Designated Safeguarding Children's Officers and Management Committee members) should have safeguarding training that includes:

- a basic awareness and understanding of safeguarding issues
- things that should alert staff/volunteers to the possibility of abuse
- reacting and responding
- reporting procedures
- dealing with issues such as confidentiality

Clubs should contact their governing body to confirm if they are facilitating any workshops. Alternatively clubs could contact their local council sports development officer for advice on accessing training.

### **Sport Northern Ireland offer two three-hour safeguarding workshops:**

- Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport
- Designated Safeguarding Children's Officer (DSCO)

Participants must have attended the Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport (awareness raising) workshop before the DSCO course as this builds on the learning from the awareness raising workshop.

### **Safeguarding Children and Young People workshop**

By the end of the Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport workshop participants will be able to:

- understand the background to safeguarding children and young people in sport
- identify best practice procedures to safeguard children and young people in sport
- understand the different categories of child abuse
- identify the signs of poor practice or abuse
- act if poor practice or abuse is suspected

## **Designated Safeguarding Children's Officer**

The aim of this workshop is to enable participants to become familiar with the role of a Designated Safeguarding Children's Officer and develop their competence and confidence in carrying out this role within sport.

By the end of the workshop participants should be able to:

- reference the legislation that pertains to safeguarding in sport and describe the main implications for the junior sports club
- describe the roles and responsibilities of key personnel/agencies in the safeguarding of children in sport, particularly the role of the Designated Safeguarding Children's Officer
- respond appropriately to a range of situations that give grounds for concern
- discuss how you would apply skills in reporting and managing cases of poor practice and abuse within/outside sport
- review the implications of the Club Framework for Safeguarding Standards in Sport within your club/organisation.

## **Training good practice**

Training provided by any party other than Sport Northern Ireland or sport specific tutors must be carefully selected to ensure it is sufficient. For sports organisations in the UK, a minimum of three hours is advised for basic awareness raising.

This is important because:

- a good understanding of the particular nature of child abuse is essential to help staff and volunteers to protect children and young people who may be suffering abuse inside or outside your organisation
- some of your staff and volunteers may find it difficult to face up to the fact that child abuse could occur within your organisation
- it introduces preventative measures to safeguard children and young people
- your staff and volunteers may need help in being clear about what is appropriate contact with children.

In training sessions or discussions, which should be a normal part and parcel of the workings of your organisation, it is important to indicate what physical contacts are inappropriate. Coaches/volunteers should be made aware of actions which might be misunderstood or situations which might render them vulnerable.

Good practice in training means keeping a record of training needs, training provided and a note of the worker's satisfaction with the training. Where possible, someone in your club should be responsible for coordinating training.

For further information and to book a place on the **Sport Northern Ireland workshops** contact **Marie-Therese Higgins**, Development Assistant, via **Email:** [marietheresehiggins@sportni.net](mailto:marietheresehiggins@sportni.net) or **Tel: 028 9038 1222**.