**Safeguarding Children Policy**

**Welcome to Our Safeguarding Children Policy Page**

At Cogenhoe United Football Club, the safety and well-being of our young players are our top priorities. This Safeguarding Children Policy outlines our commitment to protecting children and young people from harm and ensuring a safe environment for all participants.

**Policy Overview**

**Purpose:**

Our Safeguarding Children Policy is designed to ensure that:

• Children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect.

• All club members are aware of their responsibilities in safeguarding children.

• Procedures are in place for reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns.

**Scope:**

This policy applies to all club officials, coaches, volunteers, players, and parents/guardians involved with Cogenhoe United Football Club.

**Definitions**

**Safeguarding:**

The action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This includes preventing abuse and ensuring children are safe from harm while participating in activities.

**Child Abuse:**

Includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Each form of abuse can have significant and long-lasting effects on a child’s well-being.

**Key Responsibilities**

**Club Officials and Coaches:**

• **Training:** Receive regular training on safeguarding procedures and best practices.

• **Monitoring:** Be vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect and take appropriate action if concerns arise.

• **Reporting:** Follow the club’s procedures for reporting any safeguarding concerns.

**Parents and Guardians:**

• **Communication:** Maintain open communication with coaches and officials about any concerns regarding their child’s safety.

• **Support:** Support the club’s safeguarding policies and procedures.

**Players:**

• **Awareness:** Be aware of the club’s safeguarding policies and understand the importance of reporting any concerns.

**Reporting Safeguarding Concerns**

**How to Report:**

• **Immediate Concerns:** Report any immediate safeguarding concerns to a club official or coach. If a child is at immediate risk, contact emergency services (999) immediately.

• **Non-Immediate Concerns:** Use the club’s safeguarding reporting procedures. Contact the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer for guidance on reporting concerns.

**Safeguarding and Welfare Officer Contact Information:**

• **Name:** David Leys

• **Email:** [david.ley@live.com](mailto:david.ley@live.com)

• **Telephone:** 07446 243 193

**Procedures:**

• Concerns will be assessed promptly, and appropriate action will be taken, which may include contacting relevant authorities.

• Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the reporting and investigation process.

**Recruitment and Training**

**Recruitment:**

• **Safe Recruitment Practices:** All club staff and volunteers will undergo DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and follow safe recruitment practices to ensure they are suitable to work with children.

**Training:**

• **Regular Training:** Club officials, coaches, and volunteers will receive regular safeguarding training to ensure they are up-to-date with the latest procedures and best practices.

**Support for Children**

**Providing Support:**

• **Emotional Support:** Ensure that children who have disclosed concerns or who are involved in safeguarding issues receive appropriate emotional support.

• **Access to Help:** Provide access to external support services if needed.

**Policy Review**

**Review Process:**

• Our Safeguarding Children Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

• Updates will be made as needed based on new guidance or changes in legislation.

**Compliance:**

• All club members are expected to comply with this policy and uphold the principles of safeguarding.

**Contact Information**

**For More Information:**

• If you have any questions or need to report a concern, please contact David Leys, our Safeguarding and Welfare Officer, at:

• **Email:** [david.ley@live.com](mailto:david.ley@live.com)

• **Telephone:** 07446 243 193

**Additional Resources**

**Helpful Links:**

• **NSPCC:** [NSPCC Safeguarding Information](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

• **FA Safeguarding:** [FA Safeguarding Guidelines](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding)