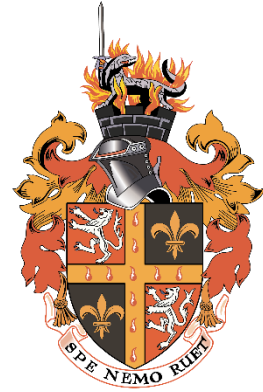


Spennymoor Town

Safeguarding Children Policy

2024/25



Implementation Date: 1st July 2024

Next Review Date: 30th June 2025

Agreed by: Ian Geldard

Signed by: 

Date: 1st July 2024

Spennymoor Town Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care. We are committed to working to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all members.

A child or young person is someone under the age of 18 engaged in club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and accept the Policy Statement contained in that document.

Policy Statement

Spennymoor Town believes that every child has a right to protection from abuse and exploitation. Safeguarding and protection of all children is everyone's responsibility. We believe that it is always unacceptable for any child to experience abuse of any kind and recognise our responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of all children.

By adhering to our safeguarding policies, procedures and processes, we will do everything possible to safeguard children at our Club, affiliated teams and within our Moors in the Community organisation.

Key Principles

Spennymoor Town recognises and is committed to the following principles:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse, regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- We will work in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers where required

Intentions of the Policy

Spennymoor Town will always seek to provide protection for the children who receive our services. We will provide all staff with guidance and access to safeguarding policies and procedures which they should adopt should they suspect that a child is at risk of harm.

This policy applies to all who are involved with Spennymoor Town FC. This includes all of the Club board, staff, volunteers, sessional workers and contractors.

Types of Abuse

Physical: A child is physically hurt or injured by an adult, or an adult gives alcohol or drugs to a child or young person. Common types of physical abuse, including hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, scalding and burning, inappropriate or unlawful use of restraint.

Sexual Abuse: When a child or young person is sexually abused, they are forced or tricked into sexual activities. They might not understand that what is happening is abuse or is wrong, and they might be afraid to tell someone. Sexual abuse can happen anywhere, and it can happen in-person or online. It is never a child's fault they were sexually abused – it is important to make sure children know this.

Emotional Abuse: This is any type of abuse which involves the continual emotional mistreatment of a child. It is sometimes called psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate, or ignore a child. Emotional abuse is often a part of other kinds of abuse, which means it can be difficult to spot the signs or tell the difference, though it can also happen on its own.

Neglect: Where a child's basic physical needs are consistently not met, or they are regularly left alone or unsupervised. Neglect is a persistent failure to meet basic needs (physical or emotional) and it leads to serious harm to the health or development of a child. Neglect can be failing to provide adequate shelter, clothing, or food, or not protecting a child from harm or danger as well as failing to access medical care or treatment for a child when it is needed.

Grooming: This is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit or abuse them. Children and young people who are groomed can be sexually abused, exploited or trafficked. Anybody can be a groomer, no matter their age, gender or race. Grooming can take place over a short or prolonged period – from weeks to years. Groomers may also build a relationship with the young person's family or friends to make them seem trustworthy or authoritative.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE): This is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited, they are given things like gifts, drugs, money, status or affection in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing that they are in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming. They may trust their abusers and not understand that they are being abused.

Trafficking: Children and young people can be trafficked into or within the UK to be sexually exploited. They are moved around the country and abused by being forced to take part in sexual activities, often with more than one person. Young people in gangs can also be sexually exploited.

Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person, making them feel as if they have no choice. They may lend them large sums of money that they know cannot be repaid or use financial abuse to control them. Anybody can be a perpetrator of CSE, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship can be framed as a friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' or coerce others to join groups.

Bullying: This is behaviour that hurts someone else. It included name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening, or undermining someone. It can happen anywhere – at school,

at home or online. It is usually repeated over a prolonged period and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

Cyberbullying: This is bullying which takes place online. Unlike bullying, online bullying can follow the child wherever they go, via social networks, tablets and mobile phones. And it can happen anywhere online, including:

- Social media
- Text messages and messaging apps
- Emails
- Online chats
- Online gaming
- Live streaming sites

Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, or from strangers. It might be part of other abuse, which is taking place offline, like bullying or grooming – or the abuse may only happen online.

Criminal Exploitation: This is child abuse where children and young people are coerced and manipulated into committing crimes.

County Lines: This is a police term for urban gangs exploiting young people into moving drugs from a hub, normally a large city, into other markets such as suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”.

Children as young as 12 have been exploited into carrying drugs for gangs. This can involve them being trafficked away from their home area, staying in accommodation and selling and manufacturing drugs.

Domestic Abuse: This is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between two people who are or have been in a relationship. It can also happen between adults related to one another. It can seriously harm children and young people, and experiencing domestic abuse is child abuse.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): This is when a female’s genitals are deliberately altered or removed for non-medical reasons. It is also known as ‘female circumcision’ or ‘cutting’ but has many other names too.

Other Policies

Please read this policy in conjunction with our other Club policies and procedures relating to Safeguarding in football:

- Safeguarding
- Adults at Risk
- Equality
- Whistleblowing
- First Appearance & Travel
- Social Media
- Anti-Bullying
- Safer Recruitment
- Coaches, Team Management & Club Officials Code of Conduct

- Spectators and Parents/Carers Code of Conduct
- Young Player Code of Conduct

Responding to Concerns or Allegations

It is not the responsibility of anyone employed by Spennymoor Town FC, in a paid or unpaid capacity, to decide whether the alleged harm or abuse has taken place. However, it is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers to act, by reporting any concerns or allegations of abuse of a child to the Club Welfare Office (CWO) or by contacting the appropriate authorities.

When to report suspicions or incidents

Staff are not expected to be experts in recognising abuse. However, staff should be vigilant and respond swiftly and appropriately. If any of the following circumstances occur, you should report this immediately to the CWO.

Make a written record of the incident or grounds for concern

You will be guided by the CWO/DSO as to how, when and by whom the parents of the child are to be informed:

- If you suspect a child may be the victim of abuse by any person, including neglect, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse
- If a child appears to have been the victim or perpetrator of bullying, including online cyberbullying
- If you observe any injuries/marks on a child which they cannot account for, their explanation for the injury seems unlikely or you have suspicions as to how the injury may have been caused
- If there is a sudden change in behaviour, i.e., the child/young person's behaviour alters significantly, they become withdrawn or tearful. If a child voices their intentions to self-harm or if you suspect he/she may be exhibiting signs/symptoms of self-harm or an eating disorder
- If you suspect a child has been exposed to any inappropriate or indecent images or discloses any inappropriate on-line behaviour
- If you accidentally hurt a child or young person, or you observe another adult hurting a child
- If he/she seems distressed in any manner and you have concerns for their emotional state or welfare
- If a child or young person appears to be sexually aroused by your actions or may have developed an infatuation with you or another member of staff
- If a child or young person misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, which may compromise your position or working relationship with that child

Do not worry that you may be mistaken. Being worried about doing the wrong thing is not a reason not to act. It is better to have discussed it with somebody with the experience and responsibility to make an assessment.

How to report a concern

- If the child is in danger or injured, then call the emergency services
- If you receive an allegation, or have suspicion, or disclosure of poor practice or abuse. Report this to your CWO/DSO
- CWO/DSO will gather the relevant information and inform the National League DSO (Steps 1&2), or County FA DSO so that a decision can be made as to who should investigate the matter or escalate to the FA Safeguarding Case Management Team should the matter meet the 'threshold'
- CWO/DSO to submit an incident form within 24 hours and send to CFA DSO.

Possible outcomes

If concern is considered poor practice/misconduct:	If concern is considered to be potential abuse:
Refer to CWO for resolution	Criminal/child protection investigation/prosecution
Club resolution	Investigation by The FA Safeguarding Case Management Team
Club disciplinary action	Resolution as poor practice/misconduct
No further action	Club safeguarding procedures

You can report a concern to Spennymoor Town by contacting the following people:

Club Welfare Officer: Gavin Cogdon

Contact Number: 07947 204 072

Email: gavin.cogdon@spennymoortownfc.org

Managing Director: Ian Geldard

Contact Number: 07956 817 168

Email: ian.geldard@spennymoortownfc.org

National League DSO: Martyn Cannon

Contact Number: 07842 429 798

Email: safeguarding@thenationalleague.org.uk

Durham County FC DSO: Neil Churcher

Contact Number: 07396 681 103

Email: neil.churcher@DurhamFA.com

FA Safeguarding Team

Contact Number: 0800 169 1863

Email: safeguarding@theFA.com

The NSPCC

Contact Number: 0800 800 5000

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

The Police on 999 if in immediate danger.

For more useful information on safeguarding, please visit any of the below websites:

The FA Safeguarding Pages

<https://www.theFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding>

The NSPCC Helpline & Childline

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

CEOP Online Safety Centre

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Appendix A

Legislation and Guidance Underpinning Safeguarding:

Children's Safeguarding Legislation	
November 1989	UN convention on the Rights of the Child
July 1998	Data Protection Act
October 2003	Female Genital Mutilation
November 2003	Sexual Offences Act
November 2004	The Children Act
November 2006	Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act
April 2010	The Equality Act
May 2012	Protection of Freedoms Act
September 2016 (with annual updates)	Keeping Children Safe in Education
February 2017	Working Together to Safeguarding Children

Adults at Risk Safeguarding Guidance	
January 2015	No Secrets: Guidance on protecting vulnerable adults in care
2017	Volunteer Now's Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
February 2018	LOT's LSAB's good practice guidance

Adults at Risk Safeguarding Legislation	
July 1998	Data Protection Act
April 2005	The Mental Capacity Act
April 2010	The Equality Act
May 2014	The Care Act