

8 December 2016



Dear Parent/Guardian

As the parent of a young person participating in activity delivered by a Premier League club community organisation I am sure you, like us, are very concerned by the allegations of historical sexual abuse at professional football clubs. The victims and survivors have been extremely brave to come forward and have our sympathy and support.

Given the volume of media coverage these disturbing stories understandably continue to generate, it is important that you as parents are made aware of the current standards and provisions in place to keep your children safe.

The Premier League and our clubs believe that all activities for children and young people, including those delivered in communities and schools, should be safe and welcoming and we work hard to ensure that safeguarding provisions are of the highest standards.

Premier League clubs follow the principles of the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit's national safeguarding standards and have done so for over 10 years.

All Premier League club community organisations must demonstrate compliance with our rules and they undergo a thorough annual process to check policies and processes. This includes their safeguarding procedures which are reviewed by experts in the field to ensure they meet the standards set under our safeguarding requirements.

All coaches, education and welfare professionals, and other staff with direct access to children and young people in our club community organisations are required to be Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked. DBS checks – or CRB as they were previously known – ensure that individuals do not have criminal records.

Each Premier League club employs a dedicated full-time Head of Safeguarding, an Academy Safeguarding Officer, and a Community Safeguarding Officer. These members of staff work closely together to ensure that children and young people can enjoy taking part in football, sport and educational activities in a safe and caring environment. Clubs must also nominate a Board member to be Safeguarding Lead – this ensures that an individual at the highest level of each club is heavily involved in safeguarding matters.

There is no complacency – the Premier League's own safeguarding team and independent monitors visit each club regularly throughout every season to assess the quality of their work and guide them on any developments that could be made.

The Premier League also meets with the NSPCC's CPSU to share information with them from our club visits, and take their expert advice on areas that we can develop or improve with a view to making sure we have the most up-to-date and relevant safeguarding procedures in place.

Should you have any questions or concerns about safeguarding in English football there are several organisations you can contact:

- The Premier League safeguarding team is available at **safeguarding@premierleague.com**
- The FA helpline, run by NSPCC professionals, is available 24 hours a day on **0800 023 2642**
- I am sure your child would come to you with any questions or concerns they may have however should they ever wish to speak with someone outside of football they can call **Child Line on 0800 1111**

At the Premier League we will continue to work with clubs, the FA, statutory authorities, and the NSPCC, so that clubs continue to provide environments that are as safe as possible for your children and all the young people who engage with them.

We see the protection of your children as a fundamental responsibility and want you to have faith that everything is being done to maintain your trust in Premier League club community organisations.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Scudamore**  
Executive Chairman