



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The club recognises several categories of abuse, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse and also the negative consequences of neglect.

It is guided by the Children Act 1989, which replaces the notion of parental rights with parental responsibility, and demands that the child's welfare be paramount in all procedures concerning child abuse.

The club is aware of the consequences for children, in terms of impaired development and under achievement, if they are abused or neglected.

Westend FC recognise:

- That parents/guardians trust us to ensure that their child's welfare is paramount
- That all children have a right to be protected from abuse, regardless of age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, or sexual identity
 - The willingness to believe that child protection issues can arise anywhere
 - The importance of early intervention and careful listening
- That all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
 - The need to appoint a Child Welfare Officer

Westend publishes a code of conduct for managers, players and parents.

Any individual involved with its members must complete a DBS check.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

DARREN WEAVER (07787 394603) is the Westend Child Welfare Officer. However, the relevant Westend FC code of conduct makes it clear that the responsibility for action rests with the individual regardless of their place within the club.

All suspicions or allegations of abuse reported to the Westend Child Welfare Officer will be treated seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

In the event of the Child Welfare Officer being unavailable, Shaun Weatherhead (07841 632203) will deputise.

OCTOBER 2020