Let's Do More CIO Charity Number: 1211554

Safeguarding Children Policy Section 2

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Understanding Abuse

Somebody may abuse a young person by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Young people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or more rarely, by a stranger.

The effects of abuse can be extremely damaging and if untreated, they may follow a person into adulthood. For example, a person who has been abused as a child may find it difficult or impossible to maintain stable, trusting relationships, become involved with drugs or prostitution or attempt suicide.

(some children may cope with trauma by being abusive towards themselves, eg self-harm, alcohol or drug abuse, risky behaviours etc. These can be a response to abuse caused by others first, and will be discussed elsewhere)

General types of abuse

There are four main types of abuse; Physical, Emotional, Sexual Abuse and Neglect. In addition, there are also other types of abuse, and issues affecting young people which are important to be aware of in the context of the sport.

Physical Abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only as far as they meet the needs of another person.

It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing.

They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse.

Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse.

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Specific types of abuse

Bullying and Cyberbullying

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else and is a form of control someone else. It includes name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening, humiliating someone, excluding them or pressuring someone to do what you want.

It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It is usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

Prejudiced-related bullying

This refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, physical or emotional or both, which causes someone to feel powerless, worthless, excluded or marginalised, and which is connected with prejudices around belonging, identity and equality in wider society, e.g. disabilities and special educational needs, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, gender, home life (for example in relation to issues of care, parental occupation, poverty and social class) and sexual identity. All cases of prejudiced related bullying should be referred to LDM Safeguarding Lead.

Grooming

Grooming is defined by the very intentional process of building a relationship with a child with the goal of manipulation, exploitation or abuse. Groomers may spend months befriending the child, intensely creating a bond before they gradually test control by asking very small inappropriate favours.

The broader aim of grooming is to manipulate and gain power and control over a “target” for the groomer’s personal benefit. And a groomer will rely on a number of tactics to take advantage of their target, including:

- Using flattery and manipulating them to believe the relationship is special, including saying things like ‘don’t tell anyone about…/ this is our secret’ etc
- Exploiting the target’s vulnerabilities, including low self-esteem, trauma or financial challenges, or whereby children have no sense of belonging
- Isolating the target from family and friends
- Buying the target gifts that they can’t afford
- Gradually introducing inappropriate elements into the relationship (like sexually explicit texts, pictures or videos or alcohol)
- Using secrecy and shame to control the target

While sexual abuse is the most common goal for grooming, a groomer may have other objectives that involve different types of exploitation in a cycle of abuse. Other motives for grooming may include:

- Criminal involvement (see county lines)
- Trafficking
- Scamming
- Financial fraud or theft

Hate crime

Hate crimes happen because of race, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, and disability.

They can happen anywhere, home, school and in the community and can be frightening for both victim and witnesses and is an offence. Hate crimes can include:

- Physical attacks - physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti, neighbour disputes and arson
- Threat of attack - offensive letters or emails, abusive or obscene telephone calls, groups hanging around to intimidate you and unfounded, malicious complaints
- Verbal abuse or insults - harassment over the phone, by text or face to face, abusive gestures, and remarks, bullying and threats

Extremism

Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable (including the young) by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.

Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.

Gang association and serious violence - County Lines

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

The word ‘gang’ means different things in different contexts, the government in their paper ‘Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity’ distinguishes between peer groups, street gangs and organised criminal gangs.[1]

It's not illegal for a young person to be in a gang – there are different types of ‘gang’ and not every ‘gang’ is criminal or dangerous. However, gang membership can be linked to illegal activity, particularly organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking, drug dealing and violent crime.

What is County Lines?

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

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

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM 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. FGM is a form of child abuse. It is dangerous and a criminal offence in the UK.

Child-On-Child Abuse

Child on child abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse using coercion/power and/or control by an individual young person or group of young people and is exercised between young people and within their relationships (both intimate and nonintimate).

All personnel in our settings recognise that young people can abuse their peers and are aware of the different forms that these safeguarding issues take:

- Bullying-emotional/physical so repeated behaviour which is intended to hurt someone either emotionally or physically (hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hairpulling, or otherwise causing physical harm)
- Online/Cyber bullying
- Prejudiced relating bullying
- Sexual
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexually Harmful behaviour
- Sexting sharing of nude or indecent (youth produced sexual imagery)
- Abuse in intimate relationships, including teenage relationship abuse
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.
- Hate crime
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Gang association and serious violence - County Lines
- Radicalisation
- This abuse can be motivated by perceived differences. e.g. on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other differences and result in significant, long lasting, and traumatic isolation, intimidation, and/or violence to the victim.

All instances of child-on-child abuse should be recorded and parents/carers informed of such incidents.

Initiation/hazing

Hazing is a form of initiation ceremony which is used to induct newcomers into an organisation such as sports teams, etc. There are several different forms, from relatively mild rituals to severe and sometimes violent ceremonies. The ceremony welcomes newcomers by subjecting them to a series of trials which promote a bond between them. After the hazing is over, the newcomers also have something in common with older members of the organisation, because they all experienced it as part of a rite passage. Many rituals involve humiliation, embarrassment, abuse, and harassment.

Teenage relationship abuse

Teenage relationship abuse is a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by an adolescent (between the ages of 13 and 18) against a current or former partner. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive teen uses this pattern of violent and coercive behaviour, in a heterosexual or same gender relationship, to gain power and maintain control over the partner. This abuse may be child sexual exploitation.

Sexual abuse

Consent

This is when someone agrees by choice and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. It is important to note that:

- A child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity
- The age of consent is 16
- Sexual intercourse without consent is rape

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity

(a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or

(b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) can occur between two children of any age and sex or with groups of children by sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

We recognise that this behaviour can take place any setting where children are together and that the impact of this behaviour on children can be extremely distressing, impacting on their emotional health and wellbeing as well as affecting their achievements overall.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment must be referred immediately to the Safeguarding Team at Basketball England.

Sexual violence

For this policy we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:

- Rape: A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents
- Assault by Penetration: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents
- Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents

Sexual harassment

For this policy we mean ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’ that can occur online and offline.

We refer to this in the context of young person on young person sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to violate a young person's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment. Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

- Sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance, and calling someone sexualised names
- Sexual 'jokes' or taunting
- Physical behaviour, such as deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes and displaying pictures, photos, or drawings of a sexual nature; and
- Online sexual harassment, which might include non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos and sharing sexual images and videos (both often referred to as sexting);

- Sexualised online bullying and inappropriate sexual comments on social media; exploitation; coercion and threats

Online sexual harassment may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

In this policy we recognise the importance of distinguishing between healthy, problematic, and sexually harmful behaviour. Sexually harmful behaviour from young people is not always contrived or with the intent to harm others. There may be many reasons why a young person engages in sexually harmful behaviour, and it may be just as distressing to the young person who instigates it as to the young person it is intended towards. It may include:

- Inappropriate sexual language
- Inappropriate role play
- Sexual touching
- Sexual assault/abuse
- Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) or peer-on-peer sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning

Sexting

The sharing of nude or indecent imagery (youth produced sexual imagery). The term 'sexting' relates to the sending of indecent images, videos and/or written messages with sexually explicit content; these are created and sent electronically. They are often 'shared' via social networking sites and instant messaging services. These images may have been because of up-skirting.

Particular attention should be given to ensuring that children are educated not to use devices in areas such as changing rooms.

Indicators Of Abuse

Unresolved trauma can leave a child stuck in a trauma response long after the cause has stopped and can still be showing in the same way as the below; please note that not all trauma is caused by abuse.

All of these signs, and any concerns, still need to be investigated in a trauma informed way.

Indications that a young person may be being abused include the following:

• Behavioural responses that are extreme or inappropriate for the situation

• An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent, or unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.

• The young person describes what appears to be an abusive act involving themselves.

• Someone else expresses concern about the welfare of another.

• Unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper).

• Inappropriate sexual awareness.

• Engaging in sexually explicit behaviour.

• Distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.

• Has difficulty in making friends.

• Is prevented from socialising with other young people.

• Displays variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite.

• Sudden weight change.

• Becomes increasingly dirty or unkempt.

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is taking place. A good working relationship with parent/guardians will help to identify any concerns that a young person may be experiencing, e.g. family bereavement which could cause some of the changes listed above. However, you must be aware that in some cases, informing the person with parental responsibility may put the child at risk of harm and in many instances, referral to LDM Safeguarding Lead is the most appropriate course of action.

Remember it is not the responsibility of those working at LDM to decide if child abuse is occurring, but it is their responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting them.

Additional Vulnerabilities

Some children and young people can be at increased risk of neglect and or abuse.

Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, social deprivation, children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences, those with communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse happens, or who have a high level of tolerance in respect of neglect.

Special consideration and attention should be given to children who are:

• Disabled or have special educational needs.

• Looked After Children (i.e. those in care, or those who have experienced being in care).

• Living in a known domestic abuse situation or chaotic or dysfunctional household.

• Affected by known parental substance misuse or parental criminality.

• Asylum seekers.

• Living away from home.

• Vulnerable to being bullied or engaging in bullying.

• Living in temporary accommodation.

• Living transient lifestyles.

• Living in neglectful and unsupportive home situations.

• Vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or sexuality.

• Involved directly or indirectly in child sexual exploitation and trafficking for sexual, domestic servitude, or criminal exploitation.

• Do not have English as a first language.

• Talented and elite athletes.

The presence of these factors does not mean that child abuse or neglect will occur, but staff should use their professional judgement to assess their significance for a particular child and they should be considered alongside any concerning factors.

Young People With Disabilities

In respect of disabled young people, additional forms of abuse can occur:

- Psychological abuse Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.
- Financial or Material abuse Including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect and acts of omission Including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Discriminatory abuse Including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability or other protected personal characteristic as defined in the Equality Act 2010, as well as other forms of harassment, slurs or similar unfair treatment.
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Talented athletes

There are also factors that can make some talented athletes more vulnerable to harmful behaviours, either from themselves, their coaches or parents, or members of support staff.

These factors include:

- Win at all costs approach
- Intense coach-athlete relationships
- A self-image that is linked closely with performance excellence
- Child athletes operating in an adult-focused environment

- Being away from family and support networks
- Fear of losing funding or a place on the program if they speak out

Athletes at all levels of sport deserve to train and compete in a safe, healthy and stimulating environment. Basketball England affiliated organisations have a responsibility to create a safe, athlete-focused environment for all.

Online safety

(see also the LDM Social Media Policy)

Children and young people may expose themselves to danger, whether knowingly or unknowingly when using the internet and other technologies. Additionally, some young people may find themselves involved in activities which are inappropriate, or possibly illegal through social networking sites etc including 'cyber-bullying'. Young people who send naked or inappropriate photos of themselves to other people are actually sending indecent images of children and therefore committing a criminal offence. Although a lot of young people may see taking, sharing or receiving images as harmless, this can have a long-term lasting effect including blackmail, bullying, emotional distress and presents an opportunity for grooming and non- contact abuse to take place.

Where possible we should educate young people in the appropriate behaviours to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies.

Refer to our Safeguarding Policy for a guide to how to respond to any of the above; if you wish to discuss any of these, or you are affected by reading them, please feel free to discuss with Kathryn. Awareness will prepare us for if we have to deal with any disclosures.