

Policy Statement

"Chess for Life" is dedicated to the safety and well-being of all its members, with a special emphasis on protecting children, young people, and vulnerable adults participating in its activities. We believe in creating a secure and positive environment where members can enjoy chess in a friendly and respectful atmosphere.

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Set out the principles guiding our approach to safeguarding.
- Detail the measures in place to protect club members, staff and volunteers from harm that may be caused to them through engagement with Chess for Life.
- Describe our response to any safeguarding concerns.
- Emphasize the responsibility of all members, staff and volunteers in maintaining a safe chess environment.

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals involved with "Chess for Life," including volunteers, staff, Directory, participants/members, and parents/guardians, together with individuals and organisations who we engage to carry out activities on our behalf (associated personnel), ensuring a comprehensive safeguarding approach.

Legal Framework and Principles

The legislation and guidance relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk include the following: The Children and Social Work Act (2017), The Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working together to safeguard children (2015), No Secrets (2000), The Crime and Disorder Act (1998), The Health and Social Care Act (2008) and the Care Act (2014).

Our policy is informed by relevant legislation and guidelines, acknowledging the importance of:

- Prioritizing the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
- Promoting a culture of zero tolerance towards abuse and exploitation.
- Treating all members with respect, fairness, and without discrimination.
- Ensuring confidentiality and a sensitive approach to all safeguarding matters.

Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** protecting the health, wellbeing and human rights of children and adults and enabling them to live free from exploitation, harm, abuse and neglect.
- **Child:** A person under the age of 18 years.
- **Participants/members:** Individuals who are registered with or have formally joined "Chess for Life" to engage in chess activities, including but not limited to playing chess for pleasure, participating in chess training sessions, and competing in friendly or official chess competitions organized by the club. Members can include children from age of 5 years and adults any skill level who are interested in the game of chess.
- **Vulnerable Adult:** An individual over 18 who may be in need of additional support or protection due to various factors.
- **Parent/Guardian:** An adult who has legal custody or responsibility for a child (a person under the age of 18 years) participating in "Chess for Life" activities.

Key Principles of Safeguarding at "Chess for Life"

- **Prioritizing Safety and Wellbeing:** The safety and wellbeing of all children and vulnerable adults participating in "Chess for Life" are our paramount concern. We are committed to creating an environment where everyone can enjoy chess without fear of harm.
- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** "Chess for Life" maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of abuse or exploitation by club officials, volunteers, or members. We are dedicated to ensuring that our club remains a safe place for everyone.
- **Discrimination-Free Environment:** We are committed to ensuring that our club is free from discrimination, bullying, and harassment. "Chess for Life" believes in treating all participants with fairness, respect, and dignity.
- **Safeguarding Policies and Procedures:** We will take reasonable and proportionate steps to ensure that all club officials and volunteers understand and adhere to our safeguarding policies and procedures. This includes regular training and background checks where applicable.
- **Seriousness in Handling Allegations:** All safeguarding allegations will be taken seriously and investigated promptly and thoroughly. "Chess for Life" is committed to dealing with any issues effectively to ensure the safety of all members.
- **Confidentiality and Sensitivity:** We guarantee that all incidents and reports of safeguarding concerns will be handled with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality. Only those directly involved in the management and resolution

of such cases will be privy to specific details, ensuring the privacy and dignity of all involved.

Responsibilities

- The Directors of the club Chess for Life are responsible for implementing this policy and being the first point of contact for any concerns.
- All members of staff, participants and volunteers are expected to be familiar with this policy and adhere to its principles.
- Any staff member or volunteer found in breach of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Reporting and Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

- Immediate safety is the priority. Any concerns should be calmly listened to and taken seriously. If in doubt about whether a concern is a safeguarding issue, it should be reported even if the concern is based on rumour or an informal discussion.
- The overriding priority in any situation is the individual's immediate safety. Stop other activity and focus on what you are being told, or have just seen. Consideration must be given to removing the individual from any potential harm to a place where any physical/emotional needs can be cared for.
- React calmly, listen and reassure the person. Take what is being said seriously.
- Document and preserve a detailed log of all relevant occurrences as they unfold, including telephone conversations, dialogue content, emails, and more. Detail the identity of the individual who has allegedly been abused, the complainant, any additional parties involved, the timing and location of the alleged incident, and the nature of the purported harm or abuse. Clarify and verify your comprehension of the circumstances. It is imperative to promptly communicate any safeguarding concerns to the Directors.
- Confidentiality is paramount, with information shared on a "need to know" basis.

Chess Activities and Competitions

- Efforts will be made to ensure all activities are conducted in a manner that respects the dignity and safety of participants.
- Friendly competitions will be supervised, with guidelines in place to ensure a safe and inclusive environment.

The Directors at "Chess for Life," possibly with the advice of specialized consultants as needed, will determine the extent and method of any investigation into safeguarding concerns. Should the issue's seriousness warrant it, law enforcement or other pertinent authorities might be alerted. In cases where a significant incident arises, the club may need to report the matter to appropriate regulatory bodies.

If an individual feels that "Chess for Life" has not adequately addressed a reported safeguarding concern, they are encouraged to escalate the issue to the Club Director or seek assistance from an external authority, such as social services or the police, for further intervention.

Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation changes or following any safeguarding incidents, to ensure it remains effective and relevant to our activities.

Adopted on [Date]

18.08.2022

Reviewed 21.08.2023