

Overview of Learning from Sports Reviews

Paul Stephenson

Child Protection in Sport Unit
NSPCC

paul.stephenson@nspcc.org.uk

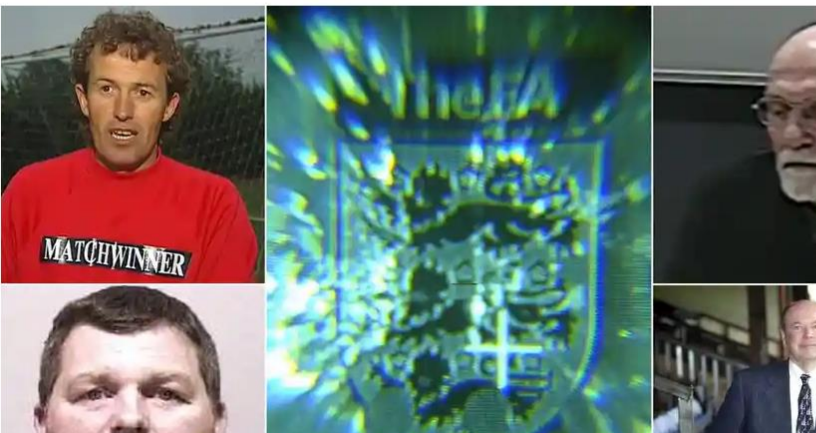
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Football

Key figures and findings in football sexual abuse report

The findings of Clive Sheldon QC regarding the FA and eight coaches including Barry Bennell and Bob Higgins



Independent Review
into Child Sexual Abuse
in Football 1970-2005

Clive Sheldon QC

The Whyte Review
with Anne Whyte QC

FOOTBALL'S DARKEST SECRET

BBC
one



NWSL commissioner Lisa Baird resigns amid sexual misconduct scandal

NWSL commissioner Lisa Baird resigns amid allegations
Riley accused of sexual coercion and misconduct
h-born coach decries 'completely untrue' allegations



Lisa Baird's resignation was announced by the NWSL late Friday. Photograph: Andrea Vilchez/SPP/Shutterstock

National Women's Soccer League commissioner Lisa Baird resigned after some 19 months on the job amid allegations that a former coach engaged in sexual harassment and misconduct.



Sexual abuse in sport Football

'You can't carry it': the victims of football's darkest scandal on the power of speaking out

UK Athletics Safeguarding Review

Published: 03/08/2020 | News

An independent safeguarding review, led by Christopher Quinlan QC has been published by the UKA.

Announced first in December 2019 and launched in March 2020, the review was commissioned by UKA, in collaboration with the Home County Athletic Federations to evaluate existing safeguarding provisions in UK athletics.

The Executive Summary and Recommendations of the independent QC led review has been welcomed by the head of UKA, Joanna Coates, who called for a "more robust system" that should make it easier to "identify and remove" those who pose a threat to the welfare of others.



in football reveals how survivors
ence inflicted further damage



Learning from Safeguarding Inquiries



Examined 11 Reports (100's of recommendations)

- Australian Gymnastics
- British Canoeing
- British Cycling Federation
- British Gymnastics (interim)
- British Judo
- Football Association - Sheldon Review
- IICSA Thematic Report Child sexual abuse in sports
- Lawn Tennis Association
- Manchester City FC
- Scottish Football Association
- UK Athletics

CPSU briefings – a series of guidance papers on safeguarding topics for sports organisations.



Learning from inquiries about safeguarding practice in sport

Sports-sector national governing bodies and funders briefing

Introduction

The aim of this briefing is to help national governing bodies (NGBs) and those who fund the sports and physical activity sector strengthen their child protection and safeguarding practice by learning from previous reviews into sports organisations.

Findings and recommendations for improvement in this briefing are taken from inquiries and investigations into safeguarding practice within the sports sector from 2017 to 2021 (see 'References' for a list of reviews considered). Some of these reports cover both child safeguarding and adults at risk concerns but contain relevant learning for all sports governing bodies and those agencies that fund sport. Most of the learning is from the sports sector in the UK, but the findings and best practice may be applicable to all sports sector organisations worldwide at grassroots and elite levels.

Terminology

In this document we use the following terms:

- athlete – any child in sports regardless of the activity or if it is at elite or grassroots level
- athlete first – that an organisation or sports official ensures that the welfare and mental health of the individual athletes is placed to the forefront of the priorities set by the sport and coach
- children and young people – used interchangeably to refer to any person under the age of 18
- concern – a worry about an individual's or organisation's behaviour, or a suspicion that a child has been or could be harmed
- incident – a specific event that has child protection implications
- thresholds – the boundaries between more serious and lower-level concerns

Section A – Key findings from the inquiries for the sports sector

The following 6 points are a summary of the collective areas of concerns raised when the different safeguarding reports were reviewed. The headings chosen are based on the most consistent themes identified.

1. Prioritising safeguarding and child protection responsibilities

Child protection and safeguarding is a broad issue that may not be viewed as the core business of those who run sport and physical activity. Though there is a clearly stated commitment from all sports governing bodies in the UK to do everything to ensure that the welfare of the child is paramount, the reviews listed in the reference section of this document would indicate that there is a gap between the production of policies and their implementation.

Child protection and safeguarding do not always appear to be prioritised within sports organisations at board or senior management level. The importance of developing a safe, enjoyable culture within the sport requires a true commitment to embed safeguarding in the practice of both high-performance and grassroots sport.

Who has a term such as the following in their safeguarding policy?



“ The Welfare of the Child is Paramount”

YES

NOT SURE

NO

Paramount Means-

adjective

more important than anything else;
supreme.

"the interests of the child are of
paramount importance"

Does your Sport/Organisation allocate more resources and funding to safeguarding than anything else?

YES

NOT SURE

NO

“ The Welfare of the Child is Paramount” – Is it really?

Key issues for the sports and voluntary sector

- 1. Lack of prioritising safeguarding roles & responsibilities**
- 2. Not having clear safeguarding policies**
- 3. Limited training requirement**
- 4. Poor engagement with parents and children**
- 5. Inadequate understanding risk and when to report**
- 6. Organisational culture not reflecting aims**

**“ The Welfare of the Child is Paramount”-
Does your sports culture reflect this?**

Clarify safeguarding roles and responsibilities



- consistent call for board ownership of safeguarding
- need for board safeguarding training
- priority for appointing a board champion
- proactively communicate with all stakeholders in a meaningful way
- nurture improvement rather than just focusing on spot checks to criticise but,
- some check and challenge will pick up any concerns about non-compliance

Develop robust policies and procedures



- regularly reviewed and updated- board sign off
- clarity about what to do in response to a concern
 - who to contact,
 - how
 - when
- have consistent UK guidance
- centralised affiliation requirements
- what is acceptable behaviour?
- what is safe recruitment?

Who requires individuals working with children **MUST** attend safeguarding training?



YES	NOT SURE	NO

Develop a training plan to include all stakeholders

- include a significant interactive element
- build confidence
- agreed standards of behaviour
- how to communicate with young people
- how to retain young people in sport
- reporting concerns
- CPD/refresher training

‘Increases in self-perceived confidence were higher among the tutor-led cohorts compared to the online cohort, particularly in understanding safeguarding. The impact of training on learner confidence was also stronger within the tutor-led cohorts for those with no prior training or experience.’ (Hartill M. et al, 2021; p.6)

Hartill M. et al (2021). Safeguarding Education in Athletics: a comparative evaluation of training effect in three modes of entry-level safeguarding training delivered by UK Athletics. Edge Hill University, Ormskirk.

Have consistent/appropriate communication with parents and children



- engage with and listen to children and parents
- establish a youth forum
- training and education resources for children and parents
- facilitating parental engagement
- clarify expectations around use of social media
- build confidence and trust in those running the sport



Ensure reporting procedures that are child focused



- moral obligation to protect children
- concern's/incidents should be reported, recorded and forwarded centrally
- thresholds to manage different levels of concerns
- case management groups involving experienced individuals
- protections for whistle-blowers
- awareness raising with young people through child friendly interactive methods

What does “athlete first” mean?



Embed safeguarding practices into the organisational culture



- “win at all costs” vrs “athlete first”
 - coach education values safeguarding
 - retention of members – life long participation
 - safeguarding champions to promote welfare
 - welfare/safeguarding committee – accountability and advisory
 - listening organisation – promoting helplines etc
- Be clear what sort of “Culture” you want**

Thank You

Paul Stephenson - Child Protection
in Sport Unit NSPCC

paul.stephenson@nspcc.org.uk

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