

# SAFEGUARDING

Have you seen these bulletins at your club?

They are issued every 2 months, so if not please contact your county safeguarding officer or [lynn@esmba.co.uk](mailto:lynn@esmba.co.uk)

**Safeguarding News**  
No.1 Jan/Feb 2022

**Focus on ... Safeguarding in Bowls**  
Safeguarding is all the processes used to keep people safe from harm, abuse and/or neglect. It involves raising public awareness so that communities, alongside professionals, understand their part in preventing, identifying, and responding to abuse and neglect. People in sports clubs and organisations can help by being aware of what constitutes abuse of children and adults at risk and by knowing what to do if they have concerns about the wellbeing of a fellow bowler or the behaviour of someone in the sport towards children or adults at risk.

**The Care Act 2014**  
This is the main piece of legislation regarding the safeguarding of Adults at Risk. Bowls clubs have many more adult members than children and so awareness of responsibilities under this law is important alongside those related to child protection. The Act defines Adults at Risk as a person who: Has care and support needs, whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs and; is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

**Types of Abuse**  
There are many types of abuse identified in the Act for children, young people, and adults. The 4 types are: Physical, Emotional, Neglect, and Sexual. Additional types include Financial, Discrimination, Domestic, Molestation, Self-harm, and Organised Crime.

**Working Together to Safeguard Children**  
Paragraph 63 of this statutory government guidance booklet identifies the role of sports clubs and organisations in safeguarding children. 'There are many sports clubs and organisations including voluntary and private sector providers that deliver a wide range of sporting activities to children. Some of these will be community amateur sports clubs, some will be charities. All should have the arrangements described in this chapter in place and should collaborate to work effectively with the safeguarding partners as required by any local safeguarding arrangements. Paid and volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Local police and health professionals should be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.'

**Safeguarding in Bowls News**  
No.7 February 2023

**Bullying v Banter**  
Sports clubs can be known for having lots of high-spirited behaviour and banter. Bowls clubs are not immune from this. Some say it helps a team bond and allows players to get to know each other. However, there is a fine line between bullying and banter. If the banter targets one person and becomes persistent, this then becomes bullying. If it upsets the individual and has potential to damage their passion for the sport, self-esteem, confidence or ability to take part then this becomes bullying. It is better to encourage praise, support and unity rather than negative behaviour. The BDA website has a guidance sheet on bullying v banter. Report any incidents to your NGB safeguarding lead.

**Focus on – Self Neglect**  
The term "self-neglect" covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings. Examples of self-neglect include:  
• A refusal or inability to cater for basic needs, including personal hygiene and appropriate clothing.  
• Neglecting to seek medical assistance.  
• Not attending to living conditions – letting rubbish accumulate in the garden, or dirt to accumulate in the house.  
• Hoarding items or animals.  
Self-neglect can result from any mental or physical illness that has an effect on the person's physical abilities, energy levels, attention, organisational skills, or motivation. There are two types of self-neglect:  
**Intentional, or Active Self-Neglect:** When a person makes a conscious choice to engage in self-neglect.  
**Non-Intentional, or Passive Self-Neglect:** When health-related conditions contribute to a risk of developing self-neglect.  
If you have concerns about someone in your bowls club who may be neglecting their own well-being, you can contact the Ann Craft Trust for advice on 0115 951 5400. Also let your club and NGB safeguarding officer know. Remember you may be the most regular point of contact for this person and more likely to notice a concern.

**Domestic Abuse**  
It is important that people can recognise domestic abuse and seek support – perhaps via friends in their bowls clubs. They should be supported to speak with the club safeguarding officer, their NGB Lead Safeguarding Officer or the BDA Lead Safeguarding Officer. There is also a national helpline: Tel. 0808 2000 0247 [Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline](http://Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline). Domestic abuse is when a partner, ex-partner or someone you live with:  
• cuts you off from family and friends and intentionally isolates you?  
• bullies, threatens, or controls you?  
• takes control of your finances?  
• monitors or limits your use of technology?  
• Physically, emotionally and/or sexually abuses you?  
Domestic abuse happens to men as well as women and can have negative impacts on children in the household.

**Awareness Days**  
September 10<sup>th</sup> is **World Suicide Prevention Day**. The theme this year is 'Creating Hope Through Action'. The day is supported by many charities including the Samaritans - [World Suicide Prevention Day | Campaigns | Samaritans](http://World Suicide Prevention Day | Campaigns | Samaritans). On the day people are asked to share the things that they do which helps them feel hopeful when they're going through a difficult time. This might be something linked to their bowls community – we are a sport well known for being friendly and supportive and our recent research supports the positive impact bowls can have on mental health and well-being. **SAMARITANS**

**BDA Community Club Hubs**  
The BDA Development Team supports bowls clubs through Community Club Hubs. They support clubs surrounding these hubs by organising workshops on topics including Safeguarding. The current Hubs are: *Linton Lions BC and South Shields BC (Northeast), Fox Lane CGBC (Northwest), Lincoln IBC (East), Rugby Thornfield IBC and Erdington Court BC (Midlands), Essex County BC (Southeast), Exania BC (Southwest).*

**Scam Protection**  
Think Jessica is an organisation committed to protecting people from fraud and scams. This is a particular safeguarding concern for adults at risk. Check out their resources on their website. [Think Jessica | Protecting elderly & vulnerable people from scams](http://Think Jessica | Protecting elderly & vulnerable people from scams)

**disabilitybowls ENGLAND**