

# Safeguarding in Bowls News.

June 2023

No.9

## Safeguarding Cases in Bowls

So what does happen if a member of a bowls club raises a safeguarding concern?

- In most cases they will mention their concern to their Club Safeguarding Officer (may be called the Welfare Officer), unless of course the concern is about them, where they would approach another committee member.
- The Safeguarding Officer will then report the concern to the relevant National Governing Body (NGB) Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO). All contact details are on the BDA website.
- They will bring the concern to the next monthly meeting of the Bowls Safeguarding Case Management Group (CMG) unless it is urgent, in which case they will advise on who to contact in the local area – police, children's or adult social care etc.
- The CMG includes the LSOs of the BDA, Bowls England, British Crown Green Bowling Association, English Bowling Federation, English Carpet Bowls Association, English Indoor Bowling Association and English Short Mat Bowling Association. Membership of a Sport England funded support project allows the CMG to use independent investigators if more information is needed regarding a concern.
- The CMG makes a **collective** recommendation on the concern which will be applied to all codes of bowls – many bowlers play more than one form of the game. This can include bans, temporary suspensions, referral to outside agencies, mediation, risk assessed continuation in the sport, education/training and also direction to sources of support. The CMG could also conclude that there is no case to answer. Where there is the need for a sanction, the relevant NGB(s) will use their own disciplinary regulations and processes.
- The decision will be communicated via the appropriate NGB(s) to the relevant people only.
- The CMG acts on the basis of the '**Balance of Probabilities**', to safeguard children and adults at risk of or suffering abuse.



## Focus on – Forced Marriage

Forced Marriage is a form of abuse, defined by the UK Government as a marriage without the consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor. In a forced marriage one or both spouses either do not, or cannot, consent to the marriage. It is illegal in the UK. Note that arranged marriages, where there is consent, are legal. The government has produced an online resource pack [Forced marriage resource pack - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/68424/Forced_Marriage_Resource_Pack.pdf)



## Awareness Days

June has two excellent opportunities to acknowledge the work of the volunteers who support the running of your bowls club plus a number of awareness days/weeks which may be worth supporting.

1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June: Volunteers Week

[About Volunteers' Week – Volunteers' Week \(volunteersweek.org\)](https://www.volunteersweek.org/)

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June: UK Coaching Week

[UK Coaching Week Countdown - UK Coaching](https://www.ukcoaching.org.uk/coaching-week/)

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June: Carers Week

[Home | Carers Week](https://www.carers.org/)

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June: Loneliness Awareness Week

[Leading UK loneliness charity | Marmalade Trust | England](https://www.leadinguklonelinesscharity.org/)

16<sup>th</sup> June: Stop Cyberbullying Day

[Home - Stop Cyberbullying Day](https://www.stopcyberbullying.org/)

## Your Feedback

We would like to know any safeguarding themes you would like to see feature in future bulletins. Please use the 'Get in Touch' button on the BDA website.

Get in touch

## Free BDA Introduction to Safeguarding

[Education - Bowls Development Alliance](https://www.bda.org.uk/education/bowls-development-alliance)

Take a look at our free introductory course; ideal for safeguarding officers and others. Our development team will be offering workshops to support club safeguarding officers.

