

Safeguarding in Bowls News

August 2023

No.10

Focus on – Grooming

Grooming is a process that "involves the offender building a relationship with a child, and sometimes with their wider family, gaining their trust and a position of power over the child, in preparation for abuse." (CEOP 2022).

Children and young people can be groomed by a stranger or by someone they know – such as a family member, friend or professional. The age gap between a child and their groomer can be relatively small.

Grooming techniques can be used to prepare children for sexual abuse, criminal exploitation or radicalisation. Offenders take a lot of time to develop relationships, learning about their victim's vulnerabilities, likes and interests. They use this knowledge to gain and maintain control and trust.

Adults can also be groomed and an additional reason may be financial abuse. Romance fraud such as "catfishing" is also a form of grooming. Predators may form (false) relationships with their victims to scam them out of money. Victims are often manipulated to acquiesce to the abuse.

The NSPCC has resources to help recognise the signs as well as advice on what to do.

[Grooming: recognising the signs | NSPCC Learning](#)

Awareness Days

August and September have a number of awareness days/weeks.

13th Aug – International Left Handers Day

[About International Lefthanders Day](#)

18th Aug – Never Give Up Day

[Home | NEVER GIVE UP DAY](#)

September – World Alzheimer's Month

[World Alzheimer's Month | Alzheimer's Disease International \(ADI\) \(alzint.org\)](#)

19th Sept - Youth Mental Health Day

[Youth Mental Health Day - stem4](#)

25th Sept – National Inclusion Week

[National Inclusion Week 2023 | Inclusive Employers](#)

Safeguarding Advice for Parents & Carers of Child Bowlers (U18)

Everyone has the right to have fun and be safe and free from harm when participating in sport and physical activity. Parents or carers should be able to check how well a bowls club is run, for the sake of their child's safety and their peace of mind.

Bowls clubs have responsibilities to ensure that their coaches and other staff are safe to work with children. Clubs should be able to provide confirmation that staff and volunteers are suitable and have undergone the right checks. All organisations providing sports for children should welcome questions about how they will keep children safe.

Parents/carers should ask to see:

- **The club Safeguarding Policy**
- **The name and contact details of their Safeguarding Officer (may be called a Welfare Officer)**
- **The Code of Conduct for members – does this include sections for parents/carers and U18 bowlers?**
- **Consent forms for Parents/Carers regarding filming / photography, travel, medical issues**
- **Emergency contact form for them to complete**
- **Expectations regarding supervision of U18s**
- **Drop-off and collection arrangements (if not needed for supervision)**

Your Feedback

Get in touch

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.

