



## **Safeguarding Report — July 2022**

A new Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) joined SRFC in September 2021. The immediate priority was to process a large volume of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks that had expired due to the suspension of the service during the pandemic.

An audit of the safeguarding arrangements was undertaken, and an action plan was developed to achieve compliance with the RFU regulations and standards of safe practice.

Four safeguarding training events were arranged and held at Salisbury Rugby club to assist their volunteers to obtain the 'Play it Safe' training without having to travel further afield and help SRFC to achieve the required RFU training compliance.

Safeguarding became a standing item at the monthly SRFC board meeting to strengthen the oversight, understanding and accountability of the board. The CSO attends each meeting to provide advice and support to the board to promote compliance with statutory guidance. Examples include information governance, safety arrangements for the changing rooms used by children, management of interim bars, managing external communication, and achieving compliance with RFU regulations.

In December 2021 SRFC implemented RFU safer recruitment practice for all volunteer roles prior to commencing regulated activity with children. This includes a volunteer recruitment application, checks with employer of the volunteer's suitability to work with children, undertaking introductory online safeguarding training and obtaining a cleared DBS check.

The CSO has provided responsive advice and support to volunteers for any concerns arising about children.

The CSO has assisted with a number of rugby tours to ensure the safeguarding arrangements comply with the RFU requirements and that there are adequate risk assessments in place to promote the safety and wellbeing of SRFC members.

The CSO has supported a number of applications for children to play up to ensure that measures are in place and authority provided that minimises the risk of harm to players.

All complaints have been investigated, appropriately resolved and actions taken to learn and improve.

The safeguarding children policy was updated and revised.

The CSO and Chairman have worked closely with the safeguarding team in the RFU and Dorset and Wiltshire to ensure that SRFC do everything required to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adult members.

Focus for 2022/23 season

1. Strengthen the process of volunteer recruitment



# SALISBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Castle Road, Salisbury, SP1 3SA

01722 325317

[info@salisburyrfc.org](mailto:info@salisburyrfc.org)

[www.salisburyrfc.org](http://www.salisburyrfc.org)



2. Provide safeguarding sessions with coaches and team managers throughout the season to promote understanding and improve safeguarding arrangements
3. Achieve full compliance with DBS checks
4. Promote: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, Sportsmanship (TREDS) values
5. Improve visibility of CSO and Assistant CSO
6. Develop ways to capture and act upon the children's voice in relation to their experience at SRFC

Karen Littlewood CSO