



## APPENDIX 2

### FA GUIDANCE FOR SAFE GUARDING CHILDREN – GUIDANCE FOR CLUB OFFICIALS INCLUDING COACHES AND CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS

The club have completed a safeguarding & Covid-19 risk assessment

The leader (Manager or Coach) of a session with young people is responsible for continuing to ensure the environment is safe and for implementing the club's safeguarding children policy and procedures.

Coaches working with children will have an in-date FA DBS Check and will have completed FA safeguarding training.

Coaches must ensure the ratio of coach to different age groups of children is appropriate. There must be a minimum of two FA-DBS Checked adults present at any one time.

We will ask parents/carers give informed consent for their child(ren) to participate in any football session.

#### LISTENING TO CHILDREN

While many families have coped well during lockdown, others may not have and for some children the experience will have been very difficult. We recognise leaders and coaches may be one of the first people outside the family unit that a child has met in recent times. It's important you know that some children may be struggling for various reasons, including:

- Lacking confidence, as they have felt cut off from their friends;
- Being confused and stressed about how to behave because of social distancing;
- They or someone they care about may have been or still be unwell;
- They may still be grieving because someone they love has died;
- Hearing that people from BAME communities may be more vulnerable to Covid-19;
- They may have been neglected emotionally and/or physically –through lack of food and/or care;
- Children with learning disabilities may find it particularly confusing, as their routine has changed.



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We recognise at this time the increase in:

- Domestic violence –significantly impacting children emotionally and/or physically in households where this has happened.
- Online grooming of children;
- Cyberbullying.

We recognise our important role in safeguarding. If we are worried about a child as they return to football, we will report our concerns.

We will check-in with the children we are coaching/working with and ask them how they've been and how they're doing.

If we are worried about a child as they return to football we will report to our club Welfare Officer who may escalate to our County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer or email The FA Safeguarding Team [atsafeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:atsafeguarding@TheFA.com) or If urgent the NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000; If it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then we will call the Police on 999.