

## **Morpeth Bowling Club Safeguarding Statement**

**All categories of Bowls England membership (clubs and counties), as a qualification of membership, must adopt the Safeguarding Policies and Guidelines (or any subsequent policy) as approved by Bowls England. This requirement must be included in all club and county constitutions.**

### **Affiliated Clubs**

All clubs must ensure they have safeguarding procedures in place. Clubs should:

- adopt The BDA safeguarding policies and procedures,
- adopt safe practice in the recruitment, training and supervision of staff, coaches and volunteers,
- nominate and advertise to members the existence of a Club Safeguarding Officer,
- promote safeguarding training opportunities to the Club Safeguarding Officer and other club members,
- have a safe and fair membership policy.

**A Club Safeguarding Officer is not required to make a judgement regarding an incident but to report it to the County Safeguarding Officer and/or NGB Safeguarding Officer (as appropriate).**

### **Safeguarding adults**

is defined in Care and Support Statutory Guidance as: protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's well-being is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

Good Coaching Practice Coaches have a very important part to play in protecting adults at risk from potential harm and are often the first to recognise and raise concerns.

It is very important that all coaches read this Policy and any related procedures and are aware of the process to follow, to deal with any concerns.

**A DBS check is not typically required for staff or volunteers recruited to work with adults however it could be sensible under certain circumstances.**

### **Responding to a Concern**

If you have any concerns about an adult's welfare you should inform the club's or organisation's Safeguarding Officer. If they are implicated themselves, inform a committee member instead or the NGB Safeguarding Officer directly. Do not investigate your concerns or keep them to yourself. It is NOT your responsibility to decide if a situation is poor practice, abuse or bullying, but it IS your responsibility to report your concerns. Your report need not involve the person's name or identifying details.

### **Recording and Information Sharing**

All sports organisation must comply with the Data Protection Act (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Information about concerns of abuse includes personal data. It is therefore important to be clear as to the grounds for processing and sharing information about concerns of abuse. Processing information includes record keeping. Records relating to safeguarding concerns must be accurate and relevant. They must be stored confidentially with access only to those with a need to know.