SOMERSET CRICKET FOUNDATION

Adults Safeguarding Policy including Adults 'At Risk'

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Somerset Cricket Foundation (SCF) is committed to safeguarding and protecting adults who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse and neglect. SCF fully accepts its responsibility for the safety and welfare of all people who engage with the charity. A simple flowchart on how to respond to a safeguarding concern and what constitutes abuse and neglect can be found in within this document.

Introduction

This policy makes it clear that within Somerset Cricket Foundation, we all have a responsibility to safeguard all adults who may be at risk of abuse and to protect them from harm. These procedures aim to raise awareness of how to safeguard and promote the welfare of all adults involved in our Foundation.

Leaders within Somerset Cricket Foundation will:

- monitor the application of this policy to ensure it is working in practice
- arrange and mandate regular training for all employees, which is appropriate to their role and responsibility
- ensure lessons are learnt through their own regular evaluations and feedback from other agencies
- respond to any concerns promptly

Definitions

SCF recognises its responsibility to protect the welfare of all adults (those aged over 18) who are involved in SCF activities. However, we also recognise that there is an additional legal basis for the protection of adults who are covered under the Care Act definition:

An adult 'at risk', is where the adult:

(a)has needs for care and support,

(b)is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and

(c)as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Purpose

By following this policy and receiving appropriate training, people representing SCF will:

- be able to identify potential risks in their working environment and mitigate against those risks
- know the different risks which all adults might be exposed to and the signs which might suggest a participant needs help and/or protection
- be able to respond appropriately to allegations, concerns and disclosures
- understand the roles and responsibilities of other professionals and their expected roles and actions to support all adults including those considered 'at risk' as per the Care Act definition.

The welfare of all adults is of paramount importance and all people have a right to be protected from bullying and abuse regardless of their sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion, belief or age. Through the application of policy, procedures and best practice, the SCF promotes the safety, welfare and well-being of all adults enabling them to participate in any SCF activity in an enjoyable, safe and inclusive environment. This equally applies to keeping safe and secure all those working with, and who are responsible for the activities involving adults.

This policy and procedure should be read in conjunction with related SCF policies and procedures.

Scope

This policy is for use across the SCF and is to be observed by all those working and coming into contact with adults, to ensure best practice in safeguarding is promoted and adhered to. All activities undertaken by the SCF are covered by this policy.

All trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employees and volunteers are made aware of the policy and procedures through induction and where appropriate their work with adults is supported by a comprehensive on-going safeguarding training programme.

The SCF ensures that employees are appropriately appointed, trained and supported so that they are able to safeguard adults. We do this through the following mechanisms:

Recruitment and Disclosure

As part of the SCF's recruitment and selection process, offers of work for positions which come into contact with adults are subject to a satisfactory self-declaration and a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) as set out by the Cricket Regulator, depending on the regulated nature of the role. SCF carry out checks on all application forms, appropriate references, right to work in the UK checks and original qualifications to ensure compliance with recruitment best practice. All offers of work are subject to a satisfactory outcome to the rigorous screening process and until such time that all background checks are deemed as acceptable by the SCF, the person concerned is not permitted to commence work.

All trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employees and volunteers supporting DBS regulated activities are required to undergo regular DBS disclosure clearances, normally every three years or earlier if required.

Should any person's DBS reveal any cautions, convictions, community resolutions, warnings or final reprimands, SCF will consider whether the nature of the offence/offences renders the person concerned unsuitable for working with adults. In such circumstances, when the nature of any disclosure has to be considered, a risk assessment is carried out to evaluate the information contained within the disclosure certificate. The person may also be required to attend a risk assessment meeting with the Managing Director, County Safeguarding Manager (CSM) and/or a member of the club's Safeguarding Team prior to a recruitment decision being made.

Further information can be found in the SCF's Recruitment Policy and Safer Recruitment Guidance available on the SCF's BrightHR system.

All new trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employee and volunteers working with adults at the SCF are required to complete a self-declaration on commencement of duties. When the SCF uses suppliers or agencies to undertake its work, they will be subject to rigorous vetting and safeguarding checks and required to adhere to the SCF's policy and procedures as set out in their contracts or service level agreements where relevant.

Induction and Training

During the induction process, trustees, employees and volunteers who work with or come into contact with adults are required to complete the ECB's safeguarding training. Trustees, employees and volunteers will also receive a copy of the policy and procedures documents and are required to sign an acknowledgement that they have read and agree to abide by them.

Workers, consultants, agency employees and volunteers who have roles that work with or come into contact with adults will undertake training as appropriate. They will also receive copies of the SCF's safeguarding policies and procedures and are expected to read and abide by them as set out in their agreements.

Refresher safeguarding training is provided every three years or earlier as required.

Roles and Responsibilities

SCF have a comprehensive safeguarding structure which ensures the safety and welfare of all adults who interact with the SCF. For the purpose of this policy and procedure the Safeguarding Team consists of; Safeguarding Trustee, Managing Director, County Safeguarding Manager (CSM) All will adhere to CPA safeguarding requirements and regular monitoring and support from the Cricket Regulator

> **Safeguarding Trustee** – to ensure the Board understand their responsibilities and to support the Managing Director and CSM in the strategic direction and implementation of safeguarding through the SCF.

Managing Director - to ensure SCF safeguarding is a key priority at Board level and is responsible for providing SCF- wide strategic leadership that assists the SCF to deliver the safeguarding strategy, vison, values, priorities, policies, promoting the welfare of vulnerable groups and communicating at heads of department level.

County Safeguarding Manager (CSM) – responsible for the operational direction and embedding of safeguarding across the SCF, clubs and leagues for Somerset. This post is also lead point of contact should safeguarding concerns arise with clubs and the Lead Disclosure Officer working closely with the Cricket Regulator and ECB.

Ongoing Awareness

Trustees, employees, workers, agency employees, consultants and volunteers are responsible for familiarising themselves with the SCF's policy and procedures, ensuring the safety and welfare of all adults. All people who work with adults are expected and encouraged to promote best practice, create and support a safe and inclusive environment and to prevent harm occurring by remaining aware of what constitutes abuse and neglect.

Culture

A policy is only useful if it is applied consistently well. SCF is committed to developing a culture where all employees and volunteers are vigilant and work proactively to keep people safe. All employees and volunteers will recognise the importance of their own behaviour and will speak out if they are concerned that someone else is behaving in a way which may put others at risk, even if they believe this action is non- intentional.

Employees and volunteers will refer all concerns to their line manager or CSM/ MD quickly and fully. Employees and volunteers will work in tandem with partners to keep people safe while working in their setting. The SCF has a positive history of participation and collaboration with the Cricket Regulator and ECB and actively works with service users to shape and inform our practice and procedures.

Online World

Although the online world provides many benefits to adults, there are also a number of potential associated risks, including:

• Inappropriate language or images.

• Online grooming.

• Cyberbullying; and

• Sexting

Further information about the online risks is contained in the SCF's Safeguarding Social Media Policy and Procedure which can be accessed on the SCF's intranet Breathe HR system.

Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation and extremism of adults is a form of psychological/emotional abuse. HM Government states that the aim of radicalisation is to attract people to a particular extremist ideology. In many cases it is with a view to inspiring an adult to eventually become involved with harmful or terrorist activities. Radicalisation can take place through direct personal contact, or indirectly through social media. Extremism is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. SCF aims to prevent radicalisation and extremism through training and educating adults in activities undertaken with the SCF.

Bullying

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that is intended to hurt another individual or group either physically or emotionally. SCF recognise this as a safeguarding issue and therefore will not tolerate this in any form including employees towards an adult or peer to peer bullying. SCF will therefore treat this in the same way it deals with all safeguarding issues through the Cricket Regulator reporting system and will deal with these instances in the same way as reports of abuse.

Use of Photography and Film

SCF employees will only take pictures of participants to be used for advertising and promotion. The images/ videos are for our use only and are not passed on to third parties. Pictures will only be taken with work mobiles and must not be stored on phones but must be uploaded within 24 hours to the SCF photo folder on the shared drive to ensure no inappropriate use. Access to this protected shared drive is by recognised SCF personnel only and photographs will be removed from staff phones as soon as reasonably possible. All participants are asked to inform SCF in writing if they have any objections and consent forms are used to capture this information. If the adult does not have capacity to complete the form, this can be completed by his/her/their carers at the start of the programme or prior to an event. In line with the Mental Capacity Act (2005), SCF will always ensure the best interests of the adult and least restrictive option are considered, which may include the adult not being photographed or filmed in SCF activities.

Handling Disclosures and Avoiding Inappropriate Behaviour or Situations

Trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employees and volunteers are not expected to be an expert in recognition of a safeguarding concern; however, all adults working, volunteering and participating have a duty of care to be vigilant and respond appropriately to suspicions of poor practice, abuse or bullying. They should also respond to any indication of abuse that may be occurring outside of the organisation setting.

To ensure adults at risk have the most positive and safe experience when engaging with the SCF, all trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employees and volunteers should adhere to the following principles and action to ensure they role model positive behaviours and so reduce the risk of potential allegations, abuse and neglect occurring:

- listen carefully to adults about their needs, wishes, ideas and concerns and take them seriously
- treat all adults equally not showing favouritism
- always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- make the experience of the activity fun and enjoyable; promote fairness, confront and deal with bullying
- maintain a safe and appropriate distance with adults and avoid unnecessary physical contact
- where any form of manual/physical support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the adults
- if adults have to be supervised in changing rooms always ensure coaches etc. work in pairs.
- request written consent if the club are required to transport adults using the club's Multi-Use Consent Form for any significant travel arrangements e.g. overnight stays; this should be completed by his/her/their carers if the adult does not have capacity to complete the form
- employees should maintain their qualifications and professional development
- a qualified first aider is in attendance or readily available
- maintain appropriate professional relationships with adults, including only engaging with adults online with prior approval and through the SCF's social media channels
- on tours or away trips ensure that activity leaders and/or other adults do not enter an adult's room unless there is a safety concern, in which case two leaders should enter and participants should not be invited into leaders' rooms
- be a positive role model, this includes not swearing, smoking, or drinking alcohol in the company of adults
- always give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- promote the SCF's vision and values and be an ambassador for those values
- ensure everyone adheres to their relevant Code of Conduct
- secure written consent for the SCF to administer emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises; this should be completed by his/her/their carers if the adult does not have capacity to complete the form
- reward effort as well as performance
- challenge unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour
- encourage adults to take responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- keep a written record of any incident or injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given or action taken using the SCF's Accident and Incident report form on SCF One Drive
- record safeguarding concerns on the safeguarding referral form

This list is not exhaustive.

Handling Disclosures and Avoiding Inappropriate Behaviour or Situations

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided by all trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employee and volunteers:

- unnecessarily spending excessive amounts of time individually with an adult away from others
- being alone in changing rooms, toilet facilities or showers used by adults
- taking adults at risk to your home or in a place where they will be alone with you, sharing a room with an adult
- engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form
- allowing adults to use inappropriate language unchallenged, making sexually suggestive comments to an adult, even in fun, or reducing an adult at risk to tears as a form of control
- allowing allegations made by an adult to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- doing things of a personal nature that the adult can do for themselves
- not recording safeguarding concerns on the Safeguarding Referral form or safeguarding reporting form and uploading to 'Clue' reporting portal (2026 onwards)
- having an adult engaged with the SCF as 'friends' or 'followers' within social networking sites such as Facebook, X (formally known as Twitter) and Instagram
- sending inappropriate text messages or social media messages to adults
- engaging with adults on 'one to one' personal electronic communication.

This list is not exhaustive.

Risk Assessments

For all SCF activities including, trips, tours, events and activities, thorough risk assessments must be completed to identify and minimise potential risks. The SCF's Health and Safety guidelines outlines the process to undertake when completing risk assessments as well as how to capture information regarding accidents and incidents and how SCF learns from such matters.

Where any adult is involved in a trip, activity or event, a risk assessment must take account of their particular vulnerabilities whilst in the SCF's care. The risk assessment should set out what arrangements are in place for their care and supervision and how risks will be minimised. Activity leaders will be required to continually update risk assessments whilst leading such activities.

Supervision of Adults

The SCF adheres to best practice guidance from the local authority in relation to the supervision of SCF employees or workers to adults. Generally, there should always be a minimum of two SCF employees or workers based on the ECB guidance on coaching and adult supervision ratios, these ratios are available here.

Furthermore, it should be noted when planning that particular activities may require more or less SCF employees or workers to some specific adults ratios due to:

- needs and capacity of the adult
- the nature of the activity and environment

- risk assessments or other information regarding the individuals needs that mean the ratio should be increased.
- expertise and experience of the employee/s involved

Should the ratio not be suitable, the SCF's County Safeguarding Manager in conjunction with the Managing Director will decide whether the activity or event takes place.

Working with External Partners

The SCF always ensures external partners and organisations we engage with promote the safety and welfare of adults and this is outlined in contracts and/or service level agreements. External partners and organisations are required to demonstrate competencies in safeguarding, and SCF assesses this through its own safeguarding audits. Where organisations do not have their own satisfactory safeguarding arrangements, they will be expected to comply with the SCF's standards.

Referrals

If the SCF has safeguarding concerns in relation to an adult or their carers, SCF will refer these concerns to external agencies as appropriate. External agencies include, but are not limited to adult social care, the police, health agencies, Counties Cricket and the Cricket Regulator.

Confidentiality

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality of safeguarding cases is maintained for all concerned.

Information should be handled and disseminated on a need-to-know basis only, which would not normally include anyone other than the following:

- the Safeguarding Trustee, Managing Director, County Safeguarding Manager, Team Leader for discipline if within SCF
- the adult at risk or the person raising the concern
- the carer of the adult who is alleged to have been abused, where appropriate
- Local Authority and Police
- dependent on role, the National Governing Body

Trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employee and volunteers may have access to confidential information about adults in order to undertake their responsibilities. In limited circumstances, trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employee or volunteers may be given highly sensitive or private information.

Confidential or personal information about an adult should not be used for their own or others advantage.

Confidential information about an adult should never be used casually in conversation or shared with any person other than on a need to know basis. In circumstances where the adult's identity does not need to be disclosed, the information should be handled anonymously.

There are some circumstances in which a trustee, employee, worker, consultant, agency employee or volunteers may be expected to share information about an adult, for example when abuse is alleged or suspected. In such cases, trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employee and volunteers have a duty to pass information on without delay, but only to those with designated safeguarding responsibilities (CSM and safeguarding team outlined above).

If a trustee, employee, worker, consultant, agency employee or volunteer is in any doubt about whether to share information or keep it confidential, guidance should be sought from the SCF's safeguarding or legal team accessed through ECB. The storing and processing of personal information about an adult is governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and 2023.

Information Sharing

The SCF abides by the 7 guiding principles as set out by HM Government on sharing information:

1. The Data Protection Act and Human Rights laws are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about adults are shared appropriately.

2. Openness and honesty with the adult (and/or their carer/family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so;

3. Advice is sought from the SCF's Safeguarding and/ Legal Team if there is any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the person at the centre of the concern where possible.

4. Information is shared with informed consent where appropriate and, where possible, there is respect for the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. Information will still be shared without consent if, in the SCF's judgement, there is good reason to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. Judgement will be based on the facts of the case.

5. The safety and well-being of the adult at risk of abuse is always the primary consideration

6. Information is only shared when it is necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure to do so.

7. Records of the SCF's decision to share information in relation to any reported concerns, with whom and the reasons are always recorded on the Referral Form and Cricket Regulator portal.

The SCF will share information with the relevant statutory agencies, the England & Wales Cricket Board and the Cricket Regulator where appropriate in relation to safeguarding cases.

Review

The SCF shall review this policy and procedures annually or whenever there is a change in legislation, guidance, governing body rules or learning from safeguarding cases.

Procedure

Whenever in doubt, employees and volunteers should contact one of the County Safeguarding Managers on the numbers below for advice and guidance.

Role	Name	Contact Email	Phone Number
County Safeguarding Manager	Brian Hoyle	Brian.hoyle@somersetcricketfoundation.org	07435503658
Managing Director	Maralyn Smith	Maralyn.smith@somersetcricketfoundation.org	07761204438
Dep County Safeguarding Officer	Amanda Counsell	Amanda.counsell@somersetcricketfoundation.org	07831125429

Consent

The first priority in safeguarding should always be to ensure the safety and welfare of the adult considered to be at risk of abuse. If concerns arise, consent must be obtained from the person concerned before a referral is made. If the adult at risk refuses to give consent, the trustee, employee, worker, consultant, agency employee or volunteer should seek advice and support from the County Safeguarding Manager or team. Information should not be given to carers or other adults involved without the consent of the adult at risk. There are a number of circumstances whereby an external referral can be made without consent and these include:

- The adult lacks the mental capacity to make that decision. This must be properly explored and recorded in line with the Mental Capacity Act and is not usually a decision that would be taken by the SCF alone, it would be made and recorded in dialogue with statutory authorities
- Emergency or life-threatening situations may warrant the sharing of relevant information with the emergency services without consent
- Other people are, or may be, at risk, including children and young people
- Sharing the information could prevent a serious crime
- A serious crime has been committed
- The risk is unreasonably high and meets the criteria for a multi-agency risk assessment conference referral
- Employees, workers, consultants, agency employees and volunteers are implicated
- There is a court order or other legal authority for taking action

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Responding to Disclosures and Concerns

It is not the responsibility of anyone within the SCF to decide whether or not abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concern. SCF assures all trustees, employees, casual workers, agency employees, consultants or volunteers that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith reports their concerns that a colleague or another is or may be abusing another person.

If an adult informs you directly that they are concerned about another person's behaviour towards them, this is known as a disclosure. In this situation the following steps should be taken:

- take the adult to a safe and quiet place
- react calmly so as not to frighten the adult
- tell the adult that they are not to blame and that they were right to tell you
- take what the adult says seriously and do not be judgemental
- if emergency medical treatment is needed, telephone for an ambulance
- avoid leading the person in discussion and keep any questions to the absolute minimum. Ask only what is necessary to ensure a clear understanding of what has been said
- reassure the individual but do not make promises of confidentiality or outcome
- no contact should be made with the alleged abuser, particularly if this is another adult who may be considered to be 'at risk' or the carer of the alleged victim
- do not commence an investigation into the incident;
- refer the concern to the County Safeguarding Manager immediately
- make a record using the SCF's Safeguarding Referral form

Preserving the Evidence

Your first concern is the safety and welfare of the adult. However, your best efforts to preserve evidence are vital especially if any police investigation is required. What you do or do not do in the time whilst you are waiting for the police to arrive may make all the difference. Below are some helpful points:

In situations of physical and/or sexual assault:

- in physical abuse cases, where an adult wishes to show you an injury, only observe what they consent to show you and what is appropriate
- do not touch what you do not have to. Wherever possible leave things as they are.
- do not clean up;
- do not wash anything or in any way remove fibres, blood etc. If you do have to handle anything at the scene, keep this to a minimum.
- do not touch any weapons unless they are handed directly to you. If this happens, keep handling to a minimum. Place the items/weapons in a clean dry place to hand to the police.
- preserve anything that was used to comfort the potentially abused adult, for example a blanket

- secure the room. Do not allow anyone to enter unless strictly necessary to support you or the potentially abused adult and/or the alleged perpetrator, until the police arrive.
- prior to the arrival of the police and medical examination:

  Ensure that no one has physical contact with both the potentially abused adult and the alleged perpetrator as cross contamination can destroy evidence.

  Encourage the victim not to shower.

  Encourage the victim not to change clothing.

- encourage the individual not to eat or drink if there is a possibility that evidence may be obtained from the mouth.

Managing Allegations against Trustees, Employees, Consultants, Agency Employee and Volunteers

Should a concern arise about a trustee, employee, worker, consultant, agency employee or volunteer's conduct in relation to an adult, this should be reported to the SCF's safeguarding team who will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the adult in question and any other person who may be considered to be at risk of harm. The trustee, employee, worker, consultant, agency employee or volunteer raising the concern should complete the SCF's Safeguarding Referral Form. When managing an allegation against a trustee, employee, worker, consultant, agency employee or volunteer the safeguarding team will follow this process:

- the allegation will be referred to the Somerset MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) and/or the Police
- the carers of the adult will be contacted as soon as possible, if applicable, following advice from statutory agencies
- Senior Management will be notified and if applicable the Cricket Regulator
- if a member of the Safeguarding Team is the subject of an allegation, the report must be made to the Human Resources/ SCF Managing Director and Chair of Trustees
- if required, a full investigation and possible disciplinary action in accordance with the SCF's Disciplinary Policy for employees will follow. Trustees, workers, consultants or agency workers may have their Agreements terminated.
- referrals as appropriate will be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Managing Bullying

Any concern relating to the bullying or abuse of an adult by another adult must be dealt with through this Policy and Procedures. Any such concern should be reported immediately to the County Safeguarding Manager.

Making a Referral

All employees, workers, consultants, agency employee and volunteers should complete the SCFs Safeguarding Referral Form after referring any case to the County Safeguarding Manager. The County Safeguarding Manager will contact the relevant Local Authority

MASH Team completing their Referral Form and update the Safeguarding Concern Form for the SCF's records.

What to do if an Adult is in Danger of Immediate Harm

The first priority is to ensure the adult is in a safe place away from the alleged perpetrator. Emergency services should be summoned whenever a situation is felt to be beyond the control of employees, casual workers, agency employees, consultants or volunteers. In addition trustees, employees, workers, consultants, agency employees and volunteers should have, readily available, all the contact numbers of the SCF's Safeguarding Team, DSOs, colleagues, or other services which can assist in an emergency or urgent situation.

Report the matter to the SCF's Safeguarding Manager at the earliest opportunity. In the absence of the SCF's Safeguarding Manager or Managing Director, contact the Somerset MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) (telephone 03001232224) and/or the police on 101 for help and to ensure the correct procedure is followed.

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Flowchart of reporting process – Safeguarding Adults

A potential safeguarding concern is identified via an observation, disclosure or an allegation

Is there an immediate risk of harm?

Is urgent medical attention required?

YES

Contact the emergency services
Ambulance and/or Police

NO

Where possible discuss your concerns with the adult. Inform them that you will have to share details with the Club Safeguarding Officer or Foundation Programme Lead

Report the concern within 24 hours to:
Your Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) or SCF Safeguarding Manager or Cricket Regulator Safeguarding Team

If the above are unavailable contact the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Team for further

Create a written report of the Safeguarding concern
Pass on the report to your CSO or Foundation Programme Lead

CSO / Foundation Programme Lead to assess the report & advise the appropriate action in line with the organisation's safeguarding procedures
CSO/ Foundation Programme Lead to inform the SCF Safeguarding Manager
Safeguarding Team at SCF assess the reported concern

Does the concern meet the Cricket Regulator Threshold?

YES

Safeguarding Team submit Threshold Level Referral Form to Cricket Regulator

Cricket Regulator confirm management of the concern and maintain communication with SCF Safeguarding team

NO

Safeguarding Team log the concern on the Low-Level Concern reporting portal (Clue)

Safeguarding Team provide support, guidance & training to CSO and relevant parties and update portal

SCF Safeguarding Team to confirm if decision is to make a safeguarding referral to the Local Authority
If a referral is required the adult's consent should be sought wherever possible. If the adult remains at risk or others are at risk of harm, the referral should be reported without their consent if necessary

DEFINTITIONS OF ABUSE

Definitions and signs of abuse relating to adults including physical abuse, domestic violence or abuse, sexual abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, financial abuse, discriminatory abuse, organisational abuse, neglect & acts of omission, self-neglect and modern slavery can be found on the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) website here.

Definitions and signs of child abuse including physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, domestic abuse, bullying (including cyberbullying), child trafficking and female genital mutilation can be found on the NSPCC website here.

Patterns of abuse may reflect very different dynamics, such as:

- serial abuse in which the someone seeks out and 'grooms' individuals. Sexual abuse sometimes falls into this pattern as do some forms of financial abuse
- Long term abuse – may occur in the context of an ongoing relationship such as domestic violence between partners or generations or persistent psychological abuse
- opportunistic abuse – such as theft occurring because money or jewellery has been left lying around
- self-neglect – where a person declines support and assistance with their care and support needs which then impacts on their individual wellbeing.

Abuse may consist of:

- a single or repeated act
- an act of commission or omission. E.g. "any act or series of acts or commission or omission by a parent or other care giver that results in harm, potential for harm or threat of harm to a child". Examples include physical, sexual and psychological abuse.
- multiple acts, for example, an adult may be neglected and also being financially abused.

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LEGISLATION

- Achieving Best Evidence 2002
- Care Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Data Protection Act 2018
- These lists are not exhaustive.