



## **Southwark Tigers Rugby Club Safeguarding policy**

**Safe guarding officer – Maggie Hammond 07903 573 554 email: hammondstones@btinternet.com**

Everyone at Southwark Tigers works together to ensure that children and young people are kept safe by contributing to:

1. The provision of a safe environment for children to play
2. The identification of children who are suffering or likely to suffer harm.
3. Actions aimed at making sure that children are kept safe at the park or venue.
4. Ensure all coaches have up to date DBS (renew every three years)

If you think a child is in need because they are suffering or likely to suffer harm, you **must** do the following:

- Make a note of what you have seen or been
- Do not make assumptions. Keep an open mind.
- Don't ask leading Only ask simple and open questions. Who, what, where, when etc.
- Don't physically examine a child (other than in an emergency when no First Aiders are present).
- Never promise to keep secrets. Explain that you can listen, but make it clear that if you think they are in danger, you will have to seek advice as you have a duty to protect them. Reassure them that they can be helped and kept safe.
- Maintain confidentiality. Pass information on to the designated they will decide whether to ring Social Care or not and whether to ring home or not.
- Be discreet. Do not do or say anything that may place you or the child at risk.
- Act Share information with the designated person.
- **Designated Person:**
- Maggie Hammond 07903573554
- Vernon Neve-Dunn 07703 052 759

If you are in any doubt about Safeguarding procedures, please contact the designated person straight away.

Southwark Tigers's Staff and Volunteers should follow the Southwark Tigers's Code of Conduct which is on our Website

## **Definitions of abuse**

### **Physical Abuse**

This is when a child is hurt or injured by a child or an adult. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. It also includes giving a child harmful drugs or alcohol. Female genital mutilation is a form of physical abuse which is illegal in the UK. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child they are looking after. A person might do this because they enjoy or need the attention they get through having a sick child.

### **Emotional Abuse**

This is when adults deny children love or affection, or constantly threaten or humiliate them. Sarcasm, degrading punishments and ignoring a child are also forms of emotional abuse and undermine a child's confidence and sense of self-worth. Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

### **Sexual Abuse**

This is when a child is used sexually by an adult or young person. Sexual abuse can include kissing, touching the child's genitals or breasts, vaginal or anal intercourse and oral sex. Encouraging a child to look at pornographic magazines or videos is also sexual abuse. Bullying, racism and other types of discrimination are forms of child abuse. Like other kinds of abuse they can harm a child physically and emotionally. Sexual abuse includes sexual exploitation, such as forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution. Boys and girls can be sexually abused by males and/or females, by adults and by other young people.

### **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born it may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision (including the use

of inadequate care givers) or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

## **Possible signs of abuse**

### **Physical signs of abuse:**

Any injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them,  Injuries which occur to the body in places which are not normally exposed to falls or games,  Unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body,  Bruises which reflect hand marks or fingertips (from slapping or pinching),  Cigarette burns,  Bite marks,  Broken bones,  Scalds,  Injuries which have not received medical attention,  Neglect-under nourishment, failure to grow, constant hunger, stealing or gorging food, untreated illnesses, inadequate care,  Repeated urinary infections or unexplained stomach pains.

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate physical abuse:  Fear of parents being approached for an explanation,  Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts,  Flinching when approached or touched,  Reluctance to get changed, for example, wearing long sleeves in hot weather,  Depression,  Withdrawn behaviour,  Running away from home.

### **Emotional signs of abuse**

The physical signs of emotional abuse may include:  A failure to thrive or grow particularly if a child puts on weight in other circumstances: e.g. in hospital or away from their parents' care,  Sudden speech disorders,  Persistent tiredness,  Development delay, either in terms of physical or emotional progress.

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate emotional abuse include:  Obsessions or phobias,  Sudden under-achievement or lack of concentration,  Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults,  Being unable to play,  Attention seeking behaviour,  Fear of making mistakes,  Self-harm,

Fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour.

### **Sexual Abuse**

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

Pain or itching in the genital/anal area,  Bruising or bleeding near genital/anal areas,  Sexually transmitted disease,  Vaginal discharge or infection,  Stomach pains,  Discomfort when walking or sitting down,  Pregnancy.

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate sexual abuse include:  Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour e.g. becoming withdrawn or aggressive,  Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people,  Having nightmares,  Running away from home,  Sexual knowledge which is beyond their age or developmental level,  Sexual drawings or language,  Bedwetting,  Eating problems such as over-eating or anorexia,  Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts,  Saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about,  Substance or drug abuse,  Suddenly having unexplained sources of

money or expensive gifts,  Not allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence),  Acting in an inappropriate sexually explicit way with adults.

### **Neglect**

The physical signs of neglect may include:  Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other children,  Constantly dirty or smelly,  Loss of weight or being constantly underweight,  Inappropriate dress for the conditions.

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate neglect include:  Complaining of being tired all the time,  Not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments,  Having few friends,  Mentioning being left alone or unsupervised.