



## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY STATEMENT**

Shefford & Sandy Hockey Club (SSHC) is committed to positive child welfare and works to ensure that the child's best interests and protection are at the heart of the Club's activities, policies and procedures. By establishing a safe, friendly and fun environment for children to learn about hockey, we will ensure that SSHC has a solid foundation for the future.

### **The Club believes:**

- That the safety and welfare of children is of paramount importance, whatever circumstances.
- A child, regardless of age, ability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation has a right to be protected from abuse.
- The rights, dignity and worth of a child should always be respected.
- That everyone with a role in working with children has a moral and legal responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse.
- That special care is needed in dealing with children whose age, inexperience or ability makes them particularly vulnerable to abuse.

### **The Club:**

- Has adopted this Safeguarding Children Policy to ensure that the welfare and safety of children is always the primary consideration.
- Is committed to providing an environment where children can learn about, participate in and enjoy hockey free from harassment or abuse.
- Accepts moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures, to provide a duty of care for young people, safeguard their well being and protect them from abuse.
- Will respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Respects and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of young people and disabled adults.
- Recruits, trains and supervises its volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect young people from abuse, and themselves against false allegations.

- Require volunteers to adopt and abide by the England Hockey Conduct, Equity, Health & Safety, Child Protection & Discipline Policies.

Who this policy applies to:

The Children Act 1989 states that anyone who is involved in the care of children should "*do what is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare*".

The SSHC Safeguarding Children Policy applies to any person or organisation involved in the care of children in hockey. A 'Child' is defined as any person under the age of 18 years AND anyone over 18 years who may be vulnerable by nature of any impairment or disability (The Children Act 1989).

The intention is not to impose unrealistic conditions or policies, but to ensure that Club representatives behave appropriately and in accordance with guidance at all times. We also consider that child welfare is a mutual commitment, and as such we seek to encourage parents / guardians to positively engage in the learning process. We will nominate a Child Welfare Officer (CWO) whose role is to ensure the effective delivery of this Action Plan. The CWO will report to the SSHC Committee.