



LIVERPOOL HOMELESS FOOTBALL CLUB

Policy 1 - Safeguarding Adults Policy

Version: 1

Date Adopted: 01.06.2026

Review Date: 01.06.2027

1 - Policy Statement

Liverpool Homeless Football Club (LHFC) is committed to safeguarding adults at risk and ensuring they can participate in football safely, with dignity and respect.

We recognise our responsibility to:

- Protect adults from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect
- Respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns
- Work in partnership with statutory services
- Comply with the **Care Act 2014** and Charity Commission safeguarding guidance

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

2 - Scope

This policy applies to:

- Trustees/ Board Members
- Staff and coaches
- Volunteers
- Partner organisations
- External teams participating in LHFC tournaments

It applies across:

- Drop-in football sessions
- Outreach delivery in care settings
- Tournaments and events

3 - Definition of an Adult Risk

An adult aged 18 or over who:

- Has care and support needs
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- Is unable to protect themselves

LHFC recognises increased vulnerability among people experiencing:

- Homelessness
- Mental health challenges
- Substance misuse
- Social isolation

4. Safeguarding Principles

LHFC follows the six principles:

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

5. Recognising Abuse and Neglect

Types of Abuse

- Physical
- Emotional / psychological
- Sexual
- Financial / material
- Neglect / acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- Modern slavery / exploitation

Key Signs to Watch For

- Unexplained injuries
- Sudden behavioural changes
- Withdrawal or fear
- Poor hygiene or deterioration
- Financial hardship or exploitation
- Signs of coercion or control

6. LHFC-Specific Risk Factors

- Rough sleeping and unsafe environments
- Substance misuse
- Peer exploitation
- Mental health crisis
- Unsafe travel situations

7. Responding to Disclosures

If someone tells you about abuse:

Do:

- Listen calmly
- Take them seriously
- Reassure them
- Record exactly what they say
- Explain you must share concerns

Do Not:

- Promise confidentiality
- Investigate
- Ask leading questions
- Confront anyone

8. Reporting Pathways

Step 1: Immediate Risk

- Call **999** if urgent danger

Step 2: Internal Reporting

Report immediately to:

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Victoria Leyshon-Matthews
- **Deputy DSL:** [To be appointed]

Step 3: External Reporting (via DSL)

- Adult Social Care (Liverpool)
- Police (if crime suspected)

Step 4: Charity Commission

Serious incidents must be reported by trustees/board members where required.

9. Handling Incidents by Activity Type

Drop-in Sessions

- Minimum 2 staff present
- Monitor group dynamics
- Record and report all concerns
- Safely support individuals in crisis

Outreach in Care Settings

- Follow host safeguarding procedures
- Share concerns with host + LHFC DSL
- Agree reporting responsibilities beforehand

Tournaments

- Provide safeguarding briefing to teams
- Identify safeguarding lead on the day
- Record and respond to incidents
- Remove unsafe individuals if necessary

10. Roles and Responsibilities

Board Members

- Oversight and compliance
- Report serious incidents

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Manage safeguarding concerns
- Liaise with agencies
- Keep records

Staff & Volunteers

- Attend training
- Report concerns immediately
- Follow code of conduct

11. Safer Working Practices

LHFC will:

- Provide safeguarding training
- Ensure DBS checks where required

- Maintain professional boundaries
- Enforce a code of conduct

12. Information Sharing

- Shared on a need-to-know basis
- Consent sought where possible
- Safety takes priority over confidentiality

13. Review

This policy is reviewed annually or after any major incident.

Appendix

Liverpool Adult Safeguarding Contacts

- Liverpool City Council Adult Social Care (Careline): 📞 0151 233 3800
- Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team: 📞 0151 233 3800
- Merseyside Police: 📞 101 (non-emergency) 🚒 999 (emergency)
- Local Safeguarding Adults Board: Liverpool Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)