1.1 Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

1.2 The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that:

1. the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
2. all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief
3. all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
4. working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential.

1.3 We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

1.4 Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

1.5 Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. Safeguarding Children Regulations (see the FA handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper or club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

1.6 We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:

1. specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
2. request identification documents
3. as a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them
4. ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone
5. where eligible require an FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations

1.7 All current Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club members working in eligible roles, with children and young people - such as managers and coaches are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice.

1.8 If there are any concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the CRC process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

1.9 It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practices with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

1.10 Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club supports The FA's whistle blowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Child Protection Manager on 0207 745 4771, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FA or by going direct to the police, social services or the NSPCC. Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

1.11 Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club has appointed Club Welfare Officers (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the child protection and best practice workshop. The post holders will be involved with the designated person's training provided by The FA. The CWO's are the first point of contact for all club members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the County FA CPO and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

1.12 We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players, parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the committee or, in cases of serious bullying contact the County FA Child Protection Officer.

1.13 Codes of conduct for players, parents or spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Dodworth Miners Welfare Junior Football Club.

1.14 In order to validate these codes of conduct the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues or the CFA in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these codes.

1.15 Further advice on child protection matters can be obtained from:

* **Club Welfare Officers:**

Clare Durkan – cdurkan18@icloud.com 07846438774

Cath Feast - c.feast@sky.com 07702344675

* **The County Football Association's Child Protection Officer**

Lisa Glaves - lisa.glaves@sheffieldfa.com

0114 261 5514 8:30am-4:30pm monday-friday

* **The FA**

Footballsafe@TheFA.com

www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe

* **The NSPCC - www.nspcc.org.uk/inform**

NSPCC 24 hour helpline 0808 800 5000

Deaf user text phone 0800 056 0566

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |