



SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING CHILDREN IN RUGBY LEAGUE

Newsletter January 2012

“The Child’s Welfare is Paramount”

CRB News

CRBs and Clubmark

Once you have achieved the Clubmark status you must continue to practice the safe recruitment of volunteers and continue to ensure all volunteers who work with children apply for a RFL enhanced CRB. When the time comes to revalidate your Clubmark you will be expected to show records of who has a CRB and who has applications in progress. The RFL can confirm this information but providing you with this at the time of your revalidation would indicate that you are not ensuring a safe environment for children and young people.

A reminder that CRBs for Clubmark are not a magical number that means you are ‘safe’ as a club, all those people working with children and young people require an RFL CRB and the numbers used for Clubmark purposes is a minimum requirement.

If you require any help in this area, please contact the Safeguarding Team.

Coaching Qualifications and CRBs

Coaching badges will not be issued until the applicant has completed the CRB application process and any risk assessment that may be associated with the application. Applications can take up to six to eight weeks and it is important to send off the CRB application as soon as you can. Once you have filled in the application you should take your documentation to a Section Verifier within your region. You will find Verifiers in your area [HERE](#). The Verifier will send the application to the Safeguarding Team – Please **do not** send the application form and documentation off to the RFL as a Verifier needs to see the evidence with the applicant.

CRB Tracking Service

A reminder that you can check where your CRB application is up to on-line. You will need to keep the application number (F00...) and you will need your (or as a CWO, the applicants) date of birth.

You can access the on-line tracking service from [HERE](#)

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News from the Media

Karate Champion Jailed for Sex Offences against a child

An international karate champion has been jailed for five years for sex offences against a 13-year-old girl. Liam O'Grady, 30, of Osbaldwick, York, was found guilty at York Crown Court of sexually grooming a child and three counts of sexual activity with a child. Judge Stephen Ashurst said he had grossly breached the trust placed in him by the girl's parents. He added that if the sexual activity had begun when the girl was 12, O'Grady would have been jailed for rape.

The Recorder of York heard during a trial last year that O'Grady, of Larchfield, sent sexual texts and pictures of himself to the teenager. The court was told O'Grady sent her almost 5,000 texts in total, and abused her at his home, in his car and also in men's toilets.

The Judge said that he had received a large amount of testimonials which spoke with "one voice" about how the defendant had contributed to his community. But Judge Ashurst said: "Maybe your sporting prowess had given you a degree of confidence.

"It was as though you believed you could get away with it because of your position."

Judge Stephen Ashurst heard that O'Grady, who has won gold medals at world and European level, taught hundreds of children karate in York.

The judge said O'Grady would be placed on the Sex Offenders Register and banned from working with children. He also gave him an indefinite Sex Offenders Prevention Order which restricts his access to female children.

Paedophile teacher Nigel Leat 'too cuddly'

Nigel Leat a teacher from Weston Super Mare has been given an indefinite sentence for the sexual abuse of children in his care. A report showed at least 30 incidents involving Leat were inappropriate "There was always something there that wasn't quite right," says a mother who claimed her daughter was a victim of paedophile Nigel Leat. She says: "He was too cuddly, he was too touchy-feely." A mother, who cannot be identified, said: "He was great fun. My child was always coming home telling me funny things that had happened - how he'd jumped onto podiums, he was just bags of fun." She said Leat was "extremely clever and devious" to have avoided detection.

Dept Supt Geoff Wessell, of Avon and Somerset Police, the senior investigating officer in the case, said Leat had groomed his victims, leading them to think the behaviour was normal. He was well-respected by his colleagues, and regarded as "pleasant, caring and easy-going".

Star pupils - Sheila Smith, from North Somerset Council said Leat fooled everyone into thinking he was a just a nice, friendly person Police said he used to identify "star pupils" and shower them with gifts before abusing them in one-to-one reading sessions. But the warning signs were not spotted and a serious case review has found a "lamentable failure" by management at Hillside First School in Weston-Super-Mare. Judge Neil Ford told Leat, of Bloomfield Road, his "treatment of the girls was clever, cunning, insidious and wicked".

He said: **"You were able to behave in this way because you were a teacher entrusted to look after children.**

"I believe you represent a risk of serious harm to young girls. You have a strong paedophilic drive." Leat had earlier admitted 36 sexual offences including attempted rape, 22 of sexual assault and eight of other serious sexual offences. He also had 30,500 indecent photographs in his possession. He will only be released when he is no longer considered a threat, danger or risk to the public and especially young girls. Det Supt Geoff Wessell: "Nigel Leat is a predatory paedophile of the most sickening order" Leat was given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum tariff of 24 years, which the judge said was the punitive period of punishment for his offences. He will serve at least eight-and-a-half years before he can be considered for parole.

Social Media

7th Feb – Safer Internet Day – ‘The Parents’ and Carers’ Guide to the Internet’ available to stream from the Parents website

Safer Internet Day (SID) is fast approaching and to celebrate, CEOP are releasing the ‘The Parents’ and Carers’ Guide to the Internet’; an entertaining, light-hearted look at what it takes to be an online parent.

With interviews from experts including Dr Tanya Byron and Dr Linda Papadopoulos, industry players like Facebook and Moshi Monsters and, most importantly, children themselves, this TV-style show aims to answer all of the tricky questions parents may be afraid to ask. You can visit the Parent section of the ‘Think you know’ website by clicking on here thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

New Season

If you require any resources for pre-season meetings, or require CRB forms for new volunteers, please request them from the Safeguarding Team, ideally by email to Safeguarding@rfl.uk.com

If you would like any specific advice and guidance on the format of pre-season meetings, please email or ring the Safeguarding Team.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

If your club has any examples of good practice, has achieved recognition in your area or you have conducted a focus group with children and young people, please let us know about it. The sharing of ideas and good practice enables all clubs to improve and show cases the work your volunteers put in to safeguarding children and creating a good environment.

Research update

Coaches Questionnaire for Edge Hill University Study

INVITATION TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Following several high-profile stories in the media about coaches' concern over being falsely accused of child abuse, I'm conducting the first confidential study on this issue to find out if there's any truth in media reports, and you are invited to take part.

The study is being conducted with the help of the Rugby Football League and involves you clicking on the link below to access a quick and easy questionnaire. It'll take less than 10 minutes of your time and is all completely anonymous – responses do not require any personal information and cannot be traced to individuals; neither the RFL nor I will be able to track who has completed the questionnaire and who has not, and returned questionnaire data is encrypted by being translated into an anonymous numerical code. After analysis, the anonymous results will be published as academic papers that will help improve our understanding of this complicated and emotive issue, and hopefully help us better protect both athletes and coaches. As a thank you for taking part, I'll send you an executive report of the findings of the study if you want one – just leave a contact address (postal or email) in the space at the end of the questionnaire.

To have your say on this important issue, please click on the following link (which will open a new window):

<http://surveys.edgehill.ac.uk/falseaccusations>

Safeguarding Children in Rugby League: Research Project with Edge Hill University

Mike Hartill is still contacting Club Welfare Officers, Coaches and Parents as part of his research. If you are contacted by Mike or one of his team and would like confirmation of their identity, please contact the Safeguarding Team. We would appreciate your support in carrying out this valuable piece of research.

Please note: the questions asked are not a 'test' on your knowledge of safeguarding but are a confidential way of assessing the impact of our safeguarding policy and procedure. There are no 'right and wrong' answers and your honest answers would be appreciated.

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REVIEW OF RESOURCES

We are currently reviewing the resources that are available to clubs. In order to do this successfully we would like to hear your views on how useful they are to you and your club. If you could email me any comments you have on the resources you have used, we can evaluate their usefulness. We would particularly like to know if you think that a resource is not useful, not in the best format, has missing or unnecessary information or if you can identify any resource that we do not currently supply that would be beneficial to you, your club, players or parents, please let me know. We look forward to receiving your emails to ensure all resources available to you meet your requirements. colette.eden@rfl.uk.com

TRAINING - SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING CHILDREN (SPC) AND TIME TO LISTEN (TTL) - A requirement for both Clubmark and good practice.

Safeguarding and Protecting Children Course (SPC)

This course is a basic safeguarding awareness course and is free for registered Club Welfare Officers and costs £15 for junior coaches and all other volunteers or paid employees.

Time to Listen Course (TTL)

This course is primarily for Club Welfare Officers and is provided free to a CWO. For other volunteers who wish to take this course the cost is £15.

The RFL organise courses on a regular basis. These are publicised by email distribution, the Safeguarding newsletter and are displayed on the RFL Website. For further information or to book a place please contact Adam Treeby @ adam.treeby@rfl.uk.com or safeguarding@rfl.uk.com

Organising a course at your club

If there are sufficient numbers within your club (12-20) the RFL will arrange a session just for your club. In addition if you want to host a course at your club for your junior coaches, other volunteers and parents and cannot get 20 people together – perhaps you could run a shared course with a neighbouring club? - please contact Colette Eden to discuss arrangements. These will cost £15 per person with CWO places free.

Please see below for dates and venues of courses that are planned

Yorkshire

Time To Listen (TTL)

Monday 27th February 2012 6:30pm – 9:30pm

King Cross Social Club, Hopwood Lane, Halifax, HX1 4HA

North West

Safeguarding & Protecting Children (SPC)

Tuesday 28th February 6pm – 9pm

St Helens Training Ground, Cowley 6th Form, Hard Lane, St Helens, WA10 6LB

14th March 2012 – 6pm to 9.00pm

Warrington Business School, Room GG06, Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA

20th June 2012 – 6pm to 9.00pm

Warrington Business School, Room GG06, Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA

12th September 2012 – 6pm to 9pm

Warrington Business School, Room GG06, Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA

Time to Listen (TTL)

21st March 2012 – 6pm to 9pm

Warrington Business School, Room GG06, Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA

4th July 2012 – 6pm to 9pm

Warrington Business School, Room GG06, Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA

26th September 2012 – 6pm to 9pm

Warrington Business School, Room GG06, Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA

North East

Safeguarding & Protecting Children (SPC)

Wednesday 29th February 2012 – 6pm – 9pm

Gateshead International Stadium, Neilson Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE10 0EF

If you would like to book a place on one of the courses above please contact Adam Treeby details below. Details of any further courses available can be found on the [RFL website](#).

SAFEGUARDING TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

Colette Eden – Safeguarding Manager

Direct Line: 0113 237 5046

Mobile: 07595 520610

Email: colette.eden@rfl.uk.com

Adam Treeby – CRB & Safeguarding Assistant

Direct Line: 0113 237 5036

Email: adam.treeby@rfl.uk.com

Colette Eden's mobile number can be used as an emergency number to ask for support or to make an initial report of an incident at any time.

Anyone who has an issue, question or requires CRB information can email the Safeguarding Team on the dedicated email address: safeguarding@rfl.uk.com or contact the Operations Team on 0844 477 7113 option 6

The NSPCC Child Protection Helpline is 0808 800 5000 - your Local Safeguarding Children Board will also be able to give advice in cases which you think needs statutory agency input.