



# VERWOOD TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

## *Child Welfare Policy and Guidance*

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Verwood Town Football Club is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people to enjoy Youth Football.

### 2. Approach

- 2.1. We will do this by:

- a) Supporting FA policy, guidelines and initiatives designed to ensure that child welfare is paramount.
- b) Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from abuse.
- c) Ensuring that all our managers, coaches and volunteers are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care.
- d) Adopting child centred and democratic coaching styles.
- e) Adopting child welfare guidelines through appropriate training and codes of conduct for players, managers, coaches and volunteers within the club.
- f) Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns that they may have.
- g) Appointing a Child Welfare Officer
- h) Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the Child Welfare Officer or the appropriate external authorities.

### 3. Our Child Welfare Officer

- 3.1. The Child Welfare Officer will take specific responsibility for child safety and act as the main point of contact for parents, children and outside agencies. In addition he/she will:
- a) Provide information as required to the management committee.
  - b) Review the effectiveness of our Child Welfare Policy and activities each year at the Annual General Meeting.
  - c) Operate within the guidelines set by the Football Association.

### 4. Reporting concerns

- 4.1. Anyone can report any child welfare issues observed to any member of the committee, but are highly recommended to contact our Child Welfare Officer on - **Child\_Welfare@VTFC.co.uk** or call The NSPCC 24-hour helpline on **0808 800 5000** – or if it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then call the police or children’s social care in your area. or The FA via **[safeguarding@thefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@thefa.com)**