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INTRODUCTION

One important difference between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children is that, as well as focusing on creating processes and systems to safeguard, there also needs to be a culture that consults with adults on every decision that affects them. Adults can of course make their own decisions, so it is important to keep them well informed.

The Care Act sets out Six Key Principles, which feature in this month's Seven Minute Briefing below:

2

EMPOWERMENT

Everyone should be supported and encouraged to make their own decisions.

Sometimes, the best way to help someone is to equip them with the knowledge and the tools they need. Empowering someone to speak up, both openly and honestly will help create an atmosphere and culture where abuse is unlikely to take place.

What can this mean for your club? Think about your culture is it open and friendly. Do you have a whistle blowing policy? Are their adequate resources in place to allow people to informed decisions?

3

PREVENTION

The goal of safeguarding (with children or adults) should be to prevent concerns, before they occur. In this case, prevent the mistreatment of vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is putting procedures in place to prevent abuse.

Members of your club should undertake safeguarding training, this will enable them to be educated on best practices, including how to minimise the risk abuse alongside learning how to spot abuse and where to report it.

4

PROPORTIONALITY

When a risk is established, the least intrusive response is always the most appropriate. Never start a course of action, which ignores the persons wishes and takes away their rights.

If a situation arises, the response should be proportional to the concern. For instance, a minor transgression of safeguarding protocol might not need to be treated as harshly as a major breach from safeguarding legislation. The National Governing Body lead safeguarding officer should be consulted and advice obtained.

7

ACCOUNTABILITY

The principle of maintaining transparency and openness when dealing with adult safeguarding issues and practices is paramount. For adult safeguarding, all parties should be kept involved and informed of the processes. There should be no cover up of problems. Every club should be willing to have their actions held up to scrutiny.

Remember, a well-run club or activity provider will welcome questions about their activities and policies. They will know that they have a responsibility to give this kind of information to anyone within their duty of care.

6

PARTNERSHIP

Bowls Clubs, Associations and Organisations have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting safeguarding concerns. By promoting awareness, your bowls club help play a part in the bigger picture. It is like a jigsaw, all the puzzle pieces need to fit together.

Legislation promotes a multi-agency approach to adult safeguarding, which involves the sharing of information, and collaboration between different parties such as healthcare providers, social workers, police, care workers, charities, and voluntary organisations. We are all working to create an environment free from abuse and neglect.

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PROTECTION

Safeguarding officers should provide and representation for those in greatest need. Safeguarding Officers should encourage clubs to create the right conditions to protect all their members.

Whether this be from a minor health and safety concern, or protection from abuse. The Culture of a club is so important to the Safeguarding Work. Cases must, if necessary and consent given, be reported to the appropriate authorities.



SEVEN MINUTE BRIEFING

ADULT SAFEGUARDING? (PART 2)