



## IZZEY'S STORY: A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN IN TENNIS.

We are pleased to introduce our new interactive and immersive safeguarding training for welfare officers and county safeguarding officers to understand the dynamics of grooming and child sexual abuse.

Izzy's Story was launched in February 2023. It was developed by the Centre for Child Protection at the University of Kent in partnership with the LTA, volunteers, coaches, and young people. The simulation is based on David Finkelhor's theory on offending, which explains the stages that child sexual offenders go through to abuse a child, and contextual safeguarding, which considers the environments and people outside a child's family in the context of safeguarding.

Please note that it is necessary to have previously completed safeguarding training to complete Izzy's Story as a basic understanding of safeguarding is needed. Completing Izzy's Story will add an additional **1 year** onto your current safeguarding training.

You are encouraged to complete this course in one sitting, which should take between 60-90 minutes. If you are unable to complete in one sitting, your location in the course will be remembered as long as you do not use a different browser or device when resuming progress.

## SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE OCT 2023

Following your feedback in relation to last year's Safeguarding Conference, this year things will be run slightly differently. Mindful of time commitments of volunteers, coaches, officials and parents this year we will be running our conference across a week during the first week of October. We have chosen this week to coincide with the NSPCC's Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week 2023.

A variety of shorter sessions across the week in the day, evenings and at the weekend will cover topics you have asked for more information on including the Young Persons Welfare Ambassador Project, venue and trip risk assessments, and how to prepare for a venue safeguarding support visit.

We will also be holding case review sessions to examine best practices and strategies for effective case management. More communication will be sent out in due course with further details about the conference, including the schedule, speakers, and registration information. This year all sessions will be recorded and placed on our webpages for you to view at your convenience.

## UPDATED VENUE SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

Last year, we conducted a review of our venue safeguarding standards and updated them. If you haven't had the opportunity to view them yet, they can be found [here](#).







When a venue is selected to receive a support visit, they will be given **4-6 weeks'** notice and asked to complete a self-assessment questionnaire, which will be attached to the invitation. It is important that you return the completed self-assessment and supporting evidence before the planned visit.

During the visit, your Regional Safeguarding Officer will discuss the safeguarding measures already in place at your venue and offer advice on where improvements can be made. The officer will also provide support and resources to assist you in this process.

We encourage all to take this opportunity to review their current safeguarding policies and procedures and to ensure that they are up to date and effective in protecting all members of their venues.

## VENUE HEALTH CHECKS

In addition to the planned Safeguarding Support Visits, the Regional Safeguarding Officers will also be making unannounced safeguarding health checks at venues. During these visits the officers will be looking that the following is in place:

-  Welfare Officer has a valid DBS
-  Welfare Officer has completed safeguarding training within the last 3 years
-  The venue website includes 'How to report a concern' information
-  The venue website includes a copy of or link to their safeguarding policy
-  If the venue website does not include the safeguarding policy, details are provided of where it can be obtained
-  If the venue does not have a website, the safeguarding policy is available in the clubhouse?

- 📍 The safeguarding policy is within its review date and has accurate information (including correct Local Authority details and correct name of Welfare Officer)
- 📍 The Welfare Officer poster is on display at the venue
- 📍 All Level 2-5 coaches are accredited

If you need any further information of resources to help you meet these points, please contact your Regional Safeguarding Officer.

## REPORTING A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

### What is a safeguarding concern?

We are seeing an increasing number of people reporting concerns through to the LTA Safeguarding Team which have no connection to safeguarding whatsoever. Please ensure that only safeguarding concerns are reported so that our resources are not stretched unnecessarily.

Safeguarding covers any concern about the well-being or safety of a young person (under 18) or adult at risk.

A safeguarding concern could involve an allegation of abuse or being worried that a child or adult at risk (as defined by the Care Act 2014) may be at risk of harm, or may have been harmed. If your concern relates to abuse of a child or adult at risk this would be investigated by the Safeguarding Team.

If you have a safeguarding concern as outlined above please use our **Report A Concern** online form which goes directly to the Safeguarding Team. Once you've completed the form you will receive a unique reference number. You can also use the QR code to take you there directly.

If the report relates to a low-level concern, it may be that we use the report for recording/information purposes, or provide advice/support for the matter to be dealt with locally (i.e., county organisation or club).

A useful flowchart on how to report a safeguarding concern is available within our template safeguarding policy which is available on our website. It may help you decide whether you need to report the concern to the LTA safeguarding team or should resolve the issue differently.

If your concern relates to a non-safeguarding issue, you can find more information on our

LTA support and complaint handling page which can be accessed at: [Customer Guidance: LTA Support and Complaint Handling](#)

## **VENUE COMMITTEE TRAINING**

As part of your ongoing commitment to safeguarding, each venue should have completed the committee safeguarding training . The training consists of an 8 minute video to be viewed at a committee meeting and facilitated by the welfare officer. The video can be accessed [here](#).

Once the committee have completed the training, you can confirm via our log [here](#).

## **GET READY FOR CAMPS**

Safeguarding at summer camps is crucial to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who attend these camps. Here are some measures that can be taken to promote safeguarding:

Suitable staff: Ensuring that the coaches are accredited, and all those in regulated activity with children have the correct DBS. More information can be found [here](#).

Risk assessments: All activities and facilities should be assessed for potential risks to ensure they are safe for children and young people. Template risk assessment can be found [here](#).

Adequate supervision: Adequate supervision should be provided at all times, and the correct ratios of supervision in place. More information can be found in the guidance [here](#).

The venue should be clear on when they will and will not be supervising children and should have a sign in and out process.

The venue should advise parents/carers at what age children can arrive/leave the venue without a parent/carer and all arrangements should be agreed upon beforehand.

## **SHOUT OUTS!**

In each newsletter, the Safeguarding team will be giving shout-outs to venues or individuals who have demonstrated good practice or have excelled in their role:

Mercury Tennis Club - The effort and professionalism taken in achieving the Safeguarding Standards during their recent support visit is recognised.

Canterbury Indoor Tennis Centre - Charles McCardle and Lina Hopkins should be recognised for their professional engagement in the undertaking of a venue safeguarding support visit. The comprehensive way that all the required process was completed supported their commitment to the support visit process.

Canterbury Appeti Tennis Centre for their collaboration with Canterbury Academy school. Appeti Tennis school provides an integral programme for children to enjoy and develop their tennis in tandem with their educational needs.

Cranleigh Lawn Tennis Club - All concerned should be congratulated in their endeavours to embed Safeguarding Standards at the venue

Gloucester Wooton Tennis Club for having all the safeguarding standards in place prior to their visit despite being a small club. This demonstrates the commitment and dedication of the club's staff and volunteers to ensuring the safety and well-being of its members.

Quarry Bank Tennis Club – The club adopts an organised and proactive approach to safeguarding which was evident for its venue safeguarding support visit. The club's website is clear and informative and sets out the standards of behaviour expected by its members. The safe and friendly atmosphere the club has created has resulted in a highly successful coaching programme attended by a large number of juniors.



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