

APPENDIX 5

ROLE OF THE BAB CHILD PROTECTION CASE MANAGEMENT GROUP (CMG)

Purpose

1. To make decisions on the initial approach to all reported cases related to the welfare and protection of children. Principally these relate to the 'route' a case will take internally and/or via external referral to statutory agencies.
2. To make initial decisions as to what level each case will be dealt with, i.e:
 - Minor poor practice which may be referred back to a club CWO with advice, or
 - Suspected abuse of a child which requires dealing with at Association or Board level.
3. To make the decision on the temporary or permanent removal of, or refusal for, an individual member to be in a designated position with children within the BAB, an affiliated Association or Club.
4. To make a recommendation to the BAB Chairman on the temporary or permanent suspension from Association membership of an individual member.
5. To monitor and review progress on all cases and to identify any trends emerging which may require a review/revision of existing policies/procedures.

Principles

1. Independence. It is essential that the group is empowered by the BAB to make decisions on the 'route' that cases will take without influence or prejudice by others in the organisation.
2. Confidentiality. All child welfare/protection matters must be regarded as highly confidential and not for disclosure outside the group unless so agreed, on a strictly need to know basis in line with the Data Protection Act and Human Rights Act.
3. Expertise. The group should be led by the BAB Lead CPO. The group should include people who have relevant knowledge and expertise to enable the group to fulfill its purpose such as HR/Personnel Manager/Clerk to disciplinary panel etc. It is recommended that at least one member of the group is external to the BAB management and has current professional child protection knowledge and experience, such as a child protection social work manager or policy child protection team officer.
4. Equity and Anti-discriminatory Practice. All decisions made by the group need to be fair, open and transparent. An open mind needs to be kept in all cases until they have been investigated and concluded. The group should be guided by the BAB Equity and/or Equality Policies and the principle that all children have the right to protection from abuse regardless of their race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, religious belief system or sexual orientation.
5. The Welfare of the Child is Paramount. This principle is enshrined in the Children Act 1989. In any decision taken by the group, the welfare of the child is the paramount concern and takes precedence over those of any adult where there is a perceived conflict of interest.