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relay



Child Protection in
Sport Unit Newsletter



NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.™

Safeguarding children in sport

Welcome to the tenth issue of *Relay*, the Child Protection in Sport Unit newsletter. This edition looks at the following issues:

- Vetting and Barring Scheme Communication Event
- The fight against bullying
- Korean research into abuse in sport
- Who wants to be a millionaire?
- Safe Network
- CPSU briefing papers

Vetting and Barring Scheme Communications Event

On 24 July the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) hosted a communications event for nearly 100 key stakeholders from the sport and recreation sector.

The aims of the event were to ensure that people in sport who will need to manage the implementation of the new Vetting and Barring Scheme:

- had a clear understanding of the scheme including their organisation's role and responsibilities
- had the opportunity to contribute to the sports sector specific guidance
- agreed a process for cascading information to grass roots/local sports organisations.

Presentations were made by Phil Quinn from the Criminal Records Bureau

(CRB), Liz Morrison from the Home Office and Suzi Daley from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The outcomes of the event are detailed in a briefing paper which is available on the CPSU website www.thecpsu.org.uk The briefing paper outlines the timescales for the scheme and the next steps for the sports sector.

Within the next few weeks the generic guidance document, which explains in detail how the scheme will work, will be available from government. This document is most useful for CRB registered bodies/umbrella bodies which will be responsible for managing the scheme.

Following the media spotlight on the scheme on 15 September the Children's

Secretary Ed Balls announced that he has asked Sir Roger Singleton, Chairman of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, to review the definition of "frequent or intensive" contact with children and report back by December 2009.

For most people involved in sport, the sector specific guidance will be the key document to refer to. This document is currently in the process of being written by DCMS. We will let you know when this is ready.

For further information about the scheme individuals and clubs should contact their national or organisational lead officer for safeguarding, use the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) website www.isa-gov.org.uk and see the CPSU website for monthly briefings.

The fight against bullying

National Anti-Bullying Week is being held from 16 to 20 November and the theme this year is cyberbullying. This form of bullying can involve sending inappropriate or hurtful text messages, emails, instant messages or posting malicious material online.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) have commissioned the Anti-Bullying Alliance to develop good practice resources in tackling bullying in community settings. The Safe from Bullying guidelines include sections on:

- children's homes
- extended services in and around schools
- further education colleges
- journeys

- play and leisure
- youth activities.

The aim of this guidance is to support people at all levels working with children to develop and embed effective anti-bullying principles and practice into their work. The resources outline the possible bullying that might occur, including cyberbullying, in each area of work and describes steps to prevent it and respond to it effectively.

These guidelines can either be downloaded or hard copies can be ordered at www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

More information on anti-bullying week is available on the Anti-Bullying Alliance website at www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk



Korean research into abuse in sport

In June this year the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) was approached to meet with the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea (NHRCK). This was following the Commission's interest in the work and impact the Unit has had in influencing the safeguarding agenda in sport within the UK.

The NHRCK was established on 25 November 2001, it is independent from the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of the Korean government. It believes that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in sport, based on the spirit of friendship, solidarity, and fair play, without any kinds of discrimination. Their principles are that all athletes participating in sports have:

- their human dignity protected
- the right to seek happiness
- the right not to be violated.

Recently in Korea, however, the problem of human rights violation against children, young people and women athletes has surfaced as an important social issue.

Although Korea successfully hosted the Seoul Olympics in 1988, the framework of national sport policies established during the previous authoritarian regime were mostly left unchanged. The institutional framework and system that trained and cultivated sport athletes remained the same. Following a number of reports into the abuse of elite athletes the NHRCK commissioned their research, which can be found on the research pages of the CPSU web site at www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/cpsu/Research/PublishedResearch/CPSUReadingList_wda64292.html

Some of the core findings from the review of the fact-finding investigation on the current Human Rights Situation of Athletes (2008) were:

- **78 per cent of middle and high school athletes reported to have experienced violence.** In particular, it was revealed that many of these student athletes fell victim to verbal and physical abuse unrelated to the training. (25 per cent of students reported to have experienced abuse once or twice a week, 5 per cent experienced abuse every day.)

- **63.8 per cent reported to have experienced sexual violence.** Forms of sexual violence varied. Verbal sexual harassment was most common at 58.3 per cent, indecent assault was 25.4 per cent and rape and forced sexual relationship were reported at 1 per cent (12 students) and 1.5 per cent (17 students) respectively. The location of such violence was typically in the boarding houses or dormitories.
- **56.4 per cent of students who experienced violence wanted to quit playing the sport.** This challenges the belief that justified violence to increase performance during the actual game. Such violence was mostly committed by coaches and older students. Violence committed by the coaches can be interpreted as a main factor to reproduce abusive and violent culture amongst the student athletes.



Who wants to be a millionaire?

Christine O'Hagan, a tutor for the Disability Awareness training module at British Gymnastics, has been closely involved in how the national governing body took the format of the popular game show *Who wants to be a millionaire?* and used it to highlight equality and equity issues within gymnastics.

Christine explained: "As a British Gymnastics tutor for the Disability Awareness Module the idea of including the *Who wants to be a millionaire?* game was originally put together and used as part of the delivery of this course. It soon became clear that with some tweaking the game could be used for other groups. The Equality Task Group at this time was also looking at ways of providing information to many different users within the organisation.

"I wanted to find a non-threatening but informative way to highlight equality issues and more specifically, disability

awareness. As a member of the development team we meet on a regular basis and are encouraged to take an active role, particularly where individuals have some knowledge that would benefit the group. The format of the interactive game needed some adapting to make it work with a large group but the adaptations made it possible for all to take part in a fun way. The participants were asked to give feedback to see what they thought would be useful to the people they come into contact with on a daily basis. The feedback was very positive and a few amendments have been made to the activity to reflect the feedback received."

With the success of the delivery to the development staff, a very small section was also delivered at a national conference as an example of the kind of work being put together by the Equality Task Group.

The game works because:

- many people know the format of the game
- questions can be changed to meet the needs of the group it's being delivered to
- there is a competitive element
- it can be made to fit different time slots
- as the answer is revealed there is an opportunity for discussion and clarification
- it's fun.

For more information on the *Who wants to be a millionaire?* game please contact Heidi Saxon at British Gymnastics

heidi.saxon@british-gymnastics.org



Safe Network

In January 2009 Children England and the NSPCC were awarded the contract to set up a national safeguarding unit for the third sector. The official launch of Safe Network, as the unit is known, on 5 June marked the culmination of five months of hard work and determination from colleagues across the NSPCC and Children England, who worked against the clock to get the unit operational.

This momentum is set to continue over the coming months as we work with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and partners to use their influence and networks to reach third sector organisations, including those offering unregulated sports and activities, to encourage them to introduce effective and sensible safeguards.

Through Safe Network we will offer information, training, high quality materials and tailored advice that volunteers, parents and organisations need to provide safe environments for children and young people to learn and have a great time. We will be doing this by working very closely with the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) who has already been making links through the Sport Unlimited project.

Safe Network will run primarily online via the Safe Network website www.safenetwork.org.uk and a telephone helpline: **0116 234 7217**

Please visit the Safe Network website to find out more about the unit.



New CPSU Briefing Papers

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) has developed three new briefing papers that are now available in the resources section of the website. Using social networking services and social media – promoting safe and responsible use.

This briefing will be useful for all those involved in an organisation considering the use of social media in sport. It includes sections on:

- what is meant by social media
- opportunities that social media offers sports organisations
- potential risks to children and young people using social networking and other interactive services
- potential indicators of online grooming for abuse
- and good practice guidance.

Text and email messaging – safeguarding guidelines

The CPSU has produced this guidance, which national governing bodies (NGBs), county sports partnerships (CSPs), other relevant community sport network partners and clubs should follow when using text messages to communicate with young people. These guidelines will help to ensure that effective safeguarding measures are put in place to minimise risk to children and young people and to protect all parties involved. The briefing paper includes sections on:

- the benefits of using text and email services
- the potential risks involved
- safeguarding guidelines on the use of bulk or bundle text messaging, texting individual young people and emailing.

Safe recruitment and selection procedures

This briefing provides points on how to ensure effective recruitment and selection procedures and advice on induction processes, including:

- Advertising jobs/volunteer roles in local papers, local newsagents, church bulletins etc. Include an indication that the post involves working with children, and (if appropriate) that a vetting check will be undertaken.
- Obtaining two references in writing (the request for references should only be sought for preferred applicants). These should preferably include their last employer or person who deployed them.
- Ensuring all new recruits go through an induction process as soon as possible so that they are familiar with the club's policies and procedures and the responsibilities of the post.

To view the full briefing papers visit the CPSU website at www.thecpsu.org.uk





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