

Letter to all Clubs and Coaches

Athletics NI would like to take this opportunity to remind all our clubs and coaches of the priority, our sport gives to the safeguarding of our members.

We would encourage you to reassure your parents in your clubs of the work we have already done in this area and that we have the following measures in place, as outlined on our Athletics NI web site under Welfare.

A Safeguarding Policy which includes robust reporting procedures under British Athletics Guidelines Policies and Procedures.

<http://athleticsni.org/Welfare>

Athletics NI have a Designated Safeguarding Children Officer.

Athletics NI Welfare Officer

Wendy Phillips welfare@athleticsni.org Mobile: 07711760831

If you are concerned about anything then you can speak to our Welfare Officer or your own Designated Safeguarding Children's Officer within the Club. It's important that members/parents and young people know who to talk to if there's anything that's worrying them.

As the Governing Body we have a written code of conduct for coaches and volunteers and also parents.

Athletics is an every-day activity for many children and makes a significant contribution to their wellbeing and development. All athletics clubs have a duty to safeguard children from abuse within our sport. They also have a role in recognising and responding to concerns that a child may be being harmed within another setting, such as the family home. By encouraging all clubs to implement the Code of Conduct and Ethics we believe that everyone in athletics will benefit – children, parents/guardians and leaders. This is to ensure that the people who will be in charge of children in our sport have a set of rules and requirements they have to follow.

All Athletics NI Staff/Volunteers and Coaches working with children are required to attend safeguarding training and have an AccessNI (vetting) check undertaken as part of the process of appointing them to work with young people.

Local clubs should be able to confirm all the necessary checks have been completed for Coaches and Volunteers in their own clubs and have attended a Safeguarding Course

Useful Contacts:

Athletics NI support the NSPCC & Childline's aim to raise awareness and understanding of the issues concerning young people in sport. If you are concerned that a young person is at risk of suicide or self-harm, don't wait until you're certain - contact the NSPCC helpline for advice and support on **0800 800 5000**, by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk or text **88858**.

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Contact :Childline for children and young people 0800 1111 . childline.org.uk.

CPSU - Child Protection in Sport Unit – Paul Stephenson

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