Dear Parents and Carers,

The current media coverage of historic abuse in football has put the issue of safeguarding firmly in the spotlight. I am writing to inform you and reassure you of Cringleford Junior Football Clubs policy and procedures.

The FA a put out a statement to all clubs in which they stated

"Everyone at The FA is appalled by the horrific abuse that has been suffered by former footballers. I applaud their immense courage and bravery in coming forward. Our thoughts are with the victims of this abuse and we are clear that we will do everything we can to support them.

I wanted to ensure that you are left in no doubt concerning how seriously The FA is approaching these disclosures. At the moment, and in line with the normal FA safeguarding procedures, we are working closely with the police and relevant authorities and we continue to encourage anyone with information about possible child abuse to report their concerns to the police, The FA or the NSPCC.

I am sure you too are deeply concerned about the recent disclosures and it is of course important to emphasise the diligence with which clubs must approach their safeguarding responsibilities. I am therefore writing to every grassroots club in the country, while my counterparts in the Premier League and EFL are writing to the professional clubs too

All clubs need to ensure their safeguarding is a priority. Together, we will make sure that the game we all love can be played in a safe, fun environment."

Here at Cringleford Junior Football Club I have been the club’s welfare officer for the past 4/5 years. My background is in teaching and I have been the lead professional for safeguarding in schools for about 15 years. All coaches at the club are required to do a DBS check every 3 years, the majority of our coaches have a Level 1 in football coaching, and those who have not yet done it are encouraged to do this and it is funded by the club. With this, the coaches also have to participate in safeguard training through the FA, in addition I keep the coaches and committee updated with any changes through the committee meetings.

If you do have any concerns with regards to safeguarding and the clubs procedures, I can be contacted on 07929 012620 or tsharred4nr6@nsix.org.uk. If you wish to contact the FA direct then you can through safeguarding@thefa.com. We all need to remain vigilant at all times. It is not your duty to investigate it, but it is your duty to report it in order to maintain the safety of all of our children.

The FA have commissioned the NSPCC to provide to help encourage more people to come forward. The number is 0800 023 2642.

We cannot and will not be complacent. Despite the fact that the safeguarding landscape has changed significantly in recent years, we must ensure we all treat the topic with the utmost care.

As welfare officer I work closely with the FA welfare officer to ensure that the relevant processes and procedures are in place.

Cringleford Junior Football Club is committed to working with the FA to ensure that these measures are robust and that football is played safely in Cringleford.

If you ever have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me via phone, email or in person on a Saturday or Sunday morning in the cafe.

Trudi Sharred

Welfare Officer

Cringleford Junior Football Club.

07929 012620

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