

Safeguarding Statement

Rossendale RUFC Mini & Junior Section acknowledges its responsibility to exercise appropriate care so as to protect all young people involved in the club from harm.

All coaches and volunteers will be aware of and adhere to the “Policy And Procedures For The Welfare Of Young People In Rugby Union”, as issued by the Rugby Football Union.

These Policies and Guidelines can be found here on the Rossendale RUFC website, within coaches packs and displayed on the noticeboard within the club.

The Key Principles behind the Welfare of Young People Policy are that:

- Anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child or young person for the purposes of this document.
- The welfare of all children and young people is paramount.
- All children and young people, regardless of age, gender, ability, race, religion, ethnic origin, nationality, social status or sexual orientation should be able to enjoy the game in an environment safe from abuse of any kind.
- It is the responsibility of child protection professionals to determine whether abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility within the sport of rugby union to report concerns.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately as per RFU Policy and Procedures.
- Working in partnership with parents/carers is essential for the protection of young people.
- The RFU recognises the roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies in relation to safeguarding children/young people and promoting their welfare, and is fully committed to complying with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.
- The RFU Policy and Procedures for the Welfare of Young People is mandatory and all affiliated clubs and Constituent Bodies must appoint a Welfare Officer to ensure that the appropriate procedures

Rossendale RUFC Mini & Junior Section has appointed Susan Hopkinson as Safeguarding Officer to oversee that the Welfare of Young People Policy is strictly enforced. Any concerns should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer by Completing an Incident Report form and handing it to the Safeguarding Officer. Incident Report forms can be downloaded from our Website from the Club Documents section, or are available from the committee or any coach.

Effective safeguarding arrangements in every local area should be underpinned by two key principles:

- **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and**
- **a child-centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.**

Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2013)