



24th November 2016

TO ALL EFL CLUB CHAIRMEN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Dear Colleague

Safeguarding

This morning, I met with the Chief Executives of The FA and the Premier League to discuss recent disclosures of child abuse in football. We have been collectively horrified by the terrible abuse suffered by former footballers and our thoughts are with the victims.

Our primary concern at this point is for those who have suffered abuse. Therefore, I would urge you to encourage anyone with information about possible child abuse in our game to report their concerns to the police, the football authorities or the NSPCC. Please ensure that those at your club are aware of the specific helpline The FA has commissioned in conjunction with the NSPCC for individuals who wish to come forward with further information. The number is 0800 023 2642.

Together, the football authorities are focused on ensuring that any disclosures are examined in full and, in line with the normal safeguarding procedures, football is working closely with the police and relevant authorities.

The EFL, Premier League and FA have written to every club in the country to ensure that clubs are supported if they need help and to make sure clubs safeguarding responsibilities are prioritised. If you need support from the EFL, please contact our Child Protection Advisor, Ann Hussey on 07795 628 379 or ahussey@efl.com.

As background, it may be helpful to provide an overview of the work that currently goes on in football to ensure safeguarding:

- The football authorities work collaboratively on prevention and investigations across the professional and grassroots game together with other football stakeholders.
- The FA has a team of safeguarding professionals who put in place preventative measures via policy, education, best practice and support for the network of people acting as Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs). Alongside this is a team of safeguarding professionals who manage referrals and concerns, work with the statutory agencies in relation to investigations and put in place safeguards, including suspensions from football activity where necessary, to manage people who pose, or may pose a risk of harm.
- All EFL clubs have Designated Safeguarding Officer's and annual safeguarding training is delivered to club staff by both the EFL and EFL Trust.
- There is a network of 8,500 people as DSOs in the professional game and grassroots football, who have been criminal records checked and trained. Their role includes making referrals to the appropriate authorities.

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- 55,000 criminal records checks are carried out across the game each season, to screen out anyone who seeks to work in football who may pose a risk of harm.
- 35,000 coaches and referees attend The FA's safeguarding children awareness course each season. Additional welfare officer training is provided to DSOs in the grassroots and bespoke training is delivered by the Premier League and EFL with their respective clubs.
- Collectively we work to develop safe environments in football and seek to ensure that if there are concerns, people know how and where to report them.

Thank you for your support and please do get in touch if we can provide you with any assistance.

Kind regards,



Shaun Harvey
Chief Executive Officer

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