

The Liverpool Supporters' Union ("Spirit of Shankly")

Child Protection Policy

1 Spirit of Shankly acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all child and youth members.

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any Union activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's child protection and best practice policy and procedures and endorse and adopt the policy statement contained in that document.

2 The key principles of The FA child protection policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents or carers is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who participates in any Union activity of any kind should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

Spirit of Shankly recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our Union.

3 Spirit of Shankly has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The Football Association's child protection regulation (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are a Union Committee Member, volunteer, Union member, anyone contracted by the Union to assist in its events or activities.

4 We endorse and adopt The FA's child protection and best practice guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will:

- Develop a role profile
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing

- Request and follow up with two references before appointing
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

All current Spirit of Shankly members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Spirit of Shankly guidance will be sought from The Football Association.

It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via The FA CRB Unit Enhanced CRB Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimize the risk of 'grooming' within Union activities.

5 Spirit of Shankly supports The FA's whistle blowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Child Protection Manager on 0207 745 4771, by writing to The FA Case Manager at

The Football Association,
25 Soho Square,
London W1D 4FA

or by going direct to the police, social services or the NSPCC.

Spirit of Shankly encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

6 Spirit of Shankly has appointed a Union Child Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the child protection and best practice workshop. The post holder will be involved with designated person's training provided by The FA.

The CWO is the first point of contact for all Union members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the County FA Welfare Officer (CFA WO) and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

7 We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable within our Union. If bullying does occur, all child and youth members, parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be

dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the Union Management Committee or, in cases of serious bullying contact the CFA WO.

8 For football related activities the Union adopts the FA's Respect codes of conduct for all child and youth members, parents or guardians and coaches have been implemented by Spirit of Shankly. In order to validate these codes of conduct the Union has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct. All prospective members will be informed of these codes.

9 Further advice on child protection matters can be obtained from:

- The County Football Association's Child Welfare Officer
- The Football Association/NSPCC Child Protection
- 24-Hour Helpline 0808 800 5000
- <http://www.TheFA.com/footballsafe>
- The FA child protection team 0207 745 4649.

10 Contact Details

Spirit Of Shankly Child Welfare Officer – welfare@spiritofshankly.com

Liverpool County FA Child Welfare Officer - Brian Hart brian.hart@liverpoolfa.com / (0151)5234488