

Letter from Greg Clarke – FA Chairman

Dear Club Secretary,

I am writing to you today to ensure that all our clubs are aware of the recent disclosures of child abuse in

football and what they should do next if they have any concerns.

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.

Firstly, I would like your help to ensure that we can offer support to those who need it. Please ensure that

those at your club are aware of the specific helpline we have commissioned the NSPCC to provide to help

encourage more people to come forward. The number is 0800 023 2642.

Secondly, I ask you too for extra vigilance with regards to safeguarding and your procedures. If you have

any concerns, please contact The FA through safeguarding@thefa.com.

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 you know, The

FA works collaboratively on prevention and investigations with the Premier League, the EFL and County

FAs, along 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). That team is here to help you if you need it; as a

grassroots club you can also seek advice and guidance directly from your CFA DSO. In addition our

specialist Case Management Team comprised of safeguarding professionals manage referrals and

concerns, working closely with the statutory agencies in relation to investigations and put in place

safeguards to manage people who pose, or may pose a risk of harm.

This framework sees 8,500 DSOs across the professional and grassroots game and carries out some

55,000 criminal records checks each season. 35,000 coaches and referees also attend The FA's

safeguarding awareness course each season and each club of course also implements its own safeguarding policy.

Collectively we will continue to work together to ensure that these measures are robust and that football is

played safely across the country.

If you have any concerns please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Clarke

Chairman