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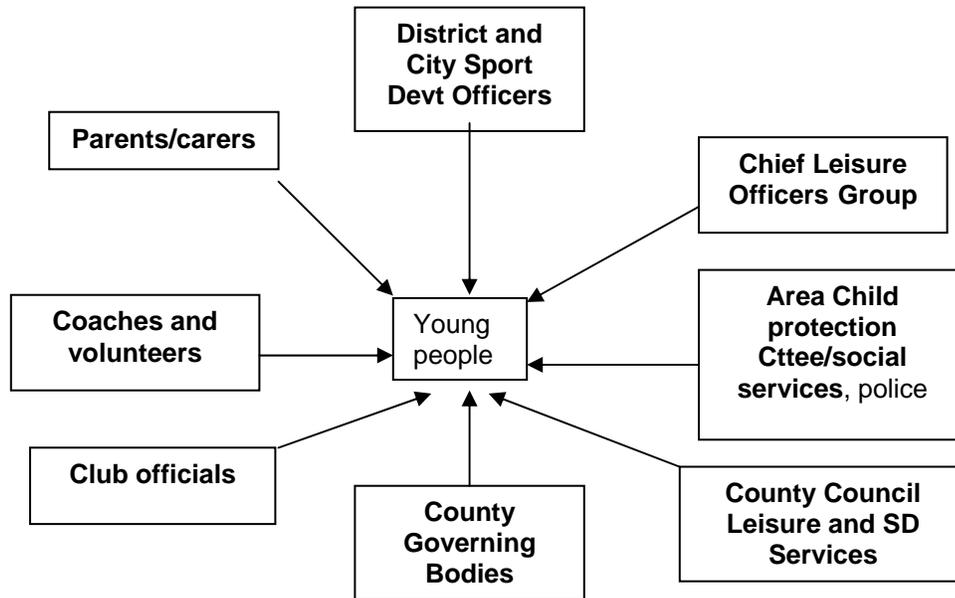
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Figure 1 Stakeholders map for child protection in county voluntary sport



Parents/carers = stakeholders consulted for the study

Table 1 Main sports provided by responding clubs (n = 130)

Main Sport	Questionnaires returned	Sample N (%)
Football	33	111 (30)
Aquatics (swimming, life saving, synchronised swimming, water polo)	24	28 (86)
Cricket	11	21 (52)
Hockey	11	18 (61)
Badminton	8	15 (53)
Tennis	6	24 (25)
Athletics	4	11 (36)
Rugby	4	11 (36)
Table tennis	4	17 (24)
Gymnastics	3	22 (14)
Squash	3	8 (38)
Cycling, BMX	3	20 (15)
Basketball	2	12 (17)
Golf	2	5 (40)
Bowls	2	15 (13)
Disability sport	2	4 (50)
Netball	1	5 (20)
Amateur boxing	1	13 (8)
Volleyball	1	1 (100)
Sailing	1	1 (100)
Judo	1	5 (20)
Rambling	1	1 (100)
Lacrosse	1	1 (100)

Table 2 Sports development focus groups invited to be involved in group interviews (n=19)

Volleyball	Girls Football	Netball	Hockey
Gymnastics	Swimming	Table Tennis	Basketball
Squash	Cricket	Athletics	Badminton
Canoeing	Lacrosse	Life Saving	Orienteering
Rugby Union	Tennis	Disability Swimming	

Table 3 Summary of quantitative results from the survey of clubs (n = 130)

Item	n (%)
Affiliated to a higher body (county, region, NGB)	121 (93%)
Had a code of ethics/practice in place	56 (43%)
Had a child protection policy in place	50 (39%)
... adopted from NGB	30 (23%)
... adopted from County or Social Services	10 (8%)
Issued written rules/expectations to members	78 (60%)
Issued written rules/expectations to coaches and volunteers	2 (2%)
Had no minimum age for junior members	32 (25%)
... minimum age set between 5 and 8 years	72 (55%)
... minimum age set between 9 and 12 years	15 (12%)
Offered: ... no provision for young people with learning disabilities	69 (53%)
... provision for U18s with learning disabilities	33 (25%)
... provision for U18s and adults with learning disabilities	20 (15%)
Private transport used to get children to and from clubs	119 (92%)
Offered provision for both boys and girls	104 (80%)
Offered provision for young disabled boys and girls	51 (39%)
Appointed new leaders or helpers through: ... word of mouth/informally	97 (75%)
... using background/police checks	57 (44%)
... using police checks, references <i>and</i> informal enquiries	6 (5%)
Provided representation for young people/vulnerable adults on committees	37 (29%)
Involved parents/carers in club activities	120 (92%)
Never involved parents/carers in club activities	9 (7%)
Coaches and instructors <i>a/ways</i> given CP training	28 (22%)
Club volunteers <i>a/ways</i> given CP training	15 (12%)
Very or fairly confident in handling CP disclosures from children	93 (72%)
Very or fairly confident in handling CP disclosures from staff or volunteers	97 (75%)
Not at all confident in disclosure situations	28 (22%)

Table 4 Summary of results from club group interviews

Issue	Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main CP issues in voluntary sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Children's voice/consultation One-to-one contact/touching Parental awareness - lack of/neglect and complacency Parental pressure/emotional abuse Never be left alone with a child Never touch a child Young males coaches in female sport Cross-sex coaching situations Male coaching styles more pushy Coach protection (from false allegations) Registration status of clubs/accreditation/charter mark schemes Verbal, emotional and mental abuse Volunteer awareness (lack of) CP training needs Over-training/competing, pressure to compete, lack of fun Young age of some competitors Vulnerability of competitors when abroad for sport Lack of police checking/vetting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current effectiveness of CP in clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor or average Better where members day jobs engaged with CP Assumed safety in team sports Little experience or knowledge across sports 'No better, no worse' Not very well Forced to pay attention because of court cases Issue not discussed enough Children in team games at less risk/one-to-one sports at more risk Privacy issues (e.g. communal changing) counteract CP (e.g. safety of being in a public space) New clubs more at risk Parents unaware in general NGBs vary in the detail and effectiveness of their guidance to clubs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and information about county CP procedures and effectiveness of implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People felt relatively uninformed on CP in general Knowledge from outside sport common e.g. teachers Knowledge from inside sport very varied Information is known to be available but not always accessible Information doesn't always go to right people

Non-sport sources easier to access than sport ones Knowledge even less in sport
 Legal knowledge scarce
 Access too difficult, documents too bulky
 External support and training costly and a low priority
 Outreach training/distance learning would be welcomed
 Added concern about taking young people away overnight for sport, both for them and the chaperones
 A lot to ask of volunteers; they are too busy; CP a low priority
 Junior club sections can be neglected in clubs "It's a man's world"
 More training and refresher work needed
 Confusion over type and range of provision
 Only those who care will take note
 Children also need information
 Stress on CP might upset coaches or volunteers
 Resistance as new area of training
 Information should be cascaded down rather than blanket requirement for all to attend courses
 Need help recognising signs of abuse
 Coaches know what to do but parents may not
 More information about how to record incidents needed

- Level of support from the County

Wide variation with some completely unaware
 Leaflets on file but nothing co-ordinated
 CC not in touch with volunteers
 Courses only catch a small number of volunteers but if compulsory these people might leave
 Did not know CC offered support so have not asked for it
 Not employed by CC so no formal contact with them
 More by NGB than CC
 Confidentiality prevents reporting to CC sometimes
 Perceived lack of co-ordination and publicity
 Common templates and help with implementation needed
 Perceived clash between NGB and county CP policies and guidelines
 Lack of understanding of County's jurisdiction over volunteers

- Actions wanted to make junior sport safer

More systematic and consistent approach, clarity of guidelines
 Cascade training
 More widely publicised referral systems
 Support for whistle-blowers
 More information for parents
 Better marketing and communication
 Simple rules/guidelines that clubs can adapt to individual needs
 NGB and CC should have the same policies and procedures
 CC should register all sports clubs
 More local workshops
 Personal contacts through SDOs
 Employee/teams from the CC to go out and visit clubs, hold seminars, information nights etc. in the clubs

Contact numbers for children and adults
Action plans in clubs including training work
Better awareness amongst SDOs in the CC
Good practice examples and policy templates for clubs to adopt
Awareness raising through posters, leaflets and videos
All local sport bodies and clubs to have CP policies
Guidelines on how coaches should talk to and handle children
Policies, information and materials for parents
Wider publicity of sports helplines (where these exist)
More basic information
Better protection for coaches
Sport-specific posters

- Additional and general issues

Sport disorganised about CP in comparison with business
Macro templates should be available and varied locally
Accreditation wanted for photography and video
Transportation and CP an area of potential controversy
Insurance issues unclear
Everyone is behind on the issues
Should be built into development plans
Clubs need codes of practice
Children should be encouraged to play/have fun
Might lack of fun constitute abuse?
Make it a wider responsibility than just CP e.g. overall welfare
Clarify/give advice on transporting children e.g. insurance issues
Be aware that children can manipulate
Ask children what they think
Consider restricting certain situations to only female coaches
Make everyone accountable to someone
Pay attention to photography rules at competitions
Only judge if proven guilty
Stick with people you know

Table 5 Digest of good practice examples reported in the survey and group interviews

Parents, leaders and volunteers	Club guidelines	NGB/County Council	References/Vetting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the participation of respectable, caring parents and ensure a high degree of parental involvement in all aspects of the club • Encourage parents to take and collect their children and to attend training sessions as spectators • Ask parents/carers to stay for the session if child is under 8 • Issues code of conduct to parents/carers, as children learn from adults • Advise members to take extra insurance re any injuries which may occur • Ensure all are aware of the Child Protection Act/in our club • Have only qualified coaches • Know the helpers and coaches very well and use references • Do not let strangers involve themselves with coaching • Build a strong relationship with children from single parent families and foster care who may have had emotional difficulties so they have someone to talk with away from the home setting • Have a qualified first aider at every game and training session • Use volunteers with a strong interest in the sport and its welfare • Name all coaches, volunteers etc. before a club is allowed to be affiliated and make sure they are trained in CP • Appoint only coaches and new members who are known to the existing committee • Encourage friendships within squads but also arrange functions for younger and older members to socialise together in a safe organised environment • First aid is always present and safety comes first at all times • Use the videos produced by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust more widely and make them available to all clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give out question papers to parents of new members about any ailments, medical contacts medication required, and contact telephone number • Tell athletes before you touch why and what you are about to do and ask their permission first • Have a retired police/local authority officer on the committee • Adhere to Home Office guidance (1999) on relationships between young people and those in 'positions of trust' • Market CP as benefit to clubs in terms of parent, volunteer and coach protection, method to increase membership etc. • Set a ratio of adults to children e.g. 1:8 • Display a poster giving the ChildLine number and name of the club welfare officer – i.e. someone the child could speak to if doesn't wish to ring ChildLine • Have several adults present who can supervise • Have all children travel to and from training/matches in pairs • Issue a Code of Conduct with every letter sent out re registration of players • If any bodily contact is to be shown e.g. positions for legs/arms, do this with the child's permission and in full view of parents or other coaches • Make coaches and volunteers work with small (3 or 4) groups and rotate them every 20-30 mins, taking breaks to keep an eye on children who are likely to be vulnerable • Increase the coach to player ratio with male and female coaches always working in groups • Issue each manager, parent and child with a code of conduct that specifies that children must be brought to, and fetched from, training session • Agree a club CP policy to go out with membership forms, rules and regulations • Have a written code of conduct within the club covering e.g. no single adult ever accompanies a single child out of view of others, particularly in the changing rooms; no one is allowed to physically or verbally abuse one another, either adult or child; all players must be smartly turned out • Keep a very close eye on all team managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only promote/use charter-marked clubs and encourage parents to do the same • Ask every coach, helper etc. to complete a child protection form that is checked by a responsible person (driving licence or passport); then have the form checked via the legal department and an investigation undertaken if necessary • Compulsory child protection courses, criminal record checks and use of identification badges (through the governing body) • Keep a register of all involved in the sport • Register those using cameras at all events • Use a code of ethics for all new coaches to work through and sign up to before starting work • Offer an induction course for all overseas coaches which involves element of child protection. This also gives the visiting clubs assurance about the credentials of these coaches. • Have NGB help line or access to generic one • Do not allow juniors to leave the sports hall without the coach's permission. • Check and register all staff through Social Services • Provide a single concise explanatory booklet on child protection issues, including do's and don'ts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview coaches, then ask for forms to be filled in and sent to the NGB; also ask for references and make own enquiries • Know the people you use and their backgrounds, if not obtain character references/ensure all are aware of the Child Protection Act • Adopt employment procedures for volunteers • Give each young player in a senior club a "mentor"; normally a vetted club official who will act as a confidante • Re-registration at each junior session allows for an individual check on each young player • Have a Welfare Officer and Liaison Officers at the club during the evenings. • Check all teachers/helpers • Try to build a close relationship with all members' parents • Try to encourage competition in a friendly way

