



Safeguarding Bulletin

November 2025

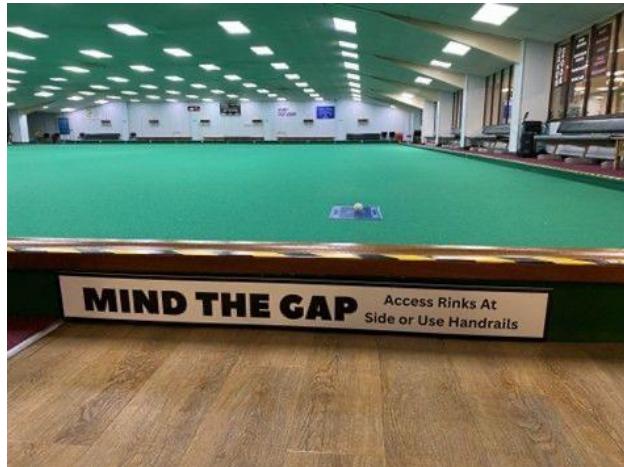
Safeguarding Adults Week

Safeguarding Adults Week 2025 takes place from Monday 17th to Friday 21st of November.

Throughout the week, the Ann Craft Trust will be hosting a series of free online seminars to see what is available go here [Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Adults Bulletin - October 2025, Issue 133 - Ann Craft Trust](#)

You can also access [a selection of free resources](#) to help you support Safeguarding Adults Week, including podcasts, posters, and social media graphics.

Dementia work



Active Togethers Sport Welfare Officer has been working with Leicester Indoor Bowls Club and the Alzheimer's Society to raise awareness of dementia within the club's mature membership.

Their manager had noticed some changes in a couple of his members and decided to take some action – so they helped him to arrange some Dementia Friends training for his staff and members.

He is now taking this a step further, with support from the Alzheimer's Society, making his premises inclusive and supportive through physical changes such as changing the



colour of his entrance mat, improving signage, introducing Rinks Drinks 'memory jogger' cards and making the club lockers easier to manage for people living with dementia.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about dementia, please get in touch with your NGB or the BDA – we are keen to expand awareness across the East Midlands and further afield.

Safeguarding Officer

Has your club got a Safeguarding Officer if not now is the time to appoint one. The attached link takes you to a short video provided by Sport England which explains the role of a safeguarding officer.

<https://share.google/bka9hFYgYQLxe0nPN>

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the welfare of an adult or child in bowls, whether the issue is inside or outside the sport, talk to your club, county or NGB Lead Safeguarding Officer. You can also contact the BDA Lead Safeguarding Officer for advice craig.scott@bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com

If you have immediate concerns about the welfare of a child, contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency, you can also ring the NSPCC free helpline on 0808 800 5000.

If you have immediate concerns about the welfare of an adult, contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Support is also available via the Ann Craft Trust on 0115 951 5400.

Safeguarding Bulletin

October 2025

This Month's Focus – NSPCC Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport-Play Your Part



This year's NSPCC Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Campaign runs 6-12 October 2025, and we're asking sports parents to play their part and talk to their children about how they can bring out their best through positive actions and support.

We want all our bowls clubs to help us get this message out to parents through their own communication channels.

Please share this link with your parents so that they can watch the video, download the questions and start conversations with their child.

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/parents/keeping-your-child-safe-in-sport-2025>

Parents and carers play a pivotal role in encouraging and supporting their child's participation, success and fun when playing sport.

Therefore, it's essential that our clubs communicate regularly with parents so that everyone works towards the same goals.

Below we set out 10 ways to engage parents and carers with your club.

[10 ways posters](#)

This toolkit gives an overview of how to bring to life this year's campaign, Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport-Play Your Part.

[Partner Activation Toolkit](#)

#SafeInSport

Calling all Safeguarding Officers!

Do you need some advice and guidance on how to increase awareness in your club?

If you would like to know more about the resources on offer, to support safeguarding in clubs, the BDA website has lots to offer.

You can find policies, guidance and templates by following this link:

[Resources - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

If you have any questions, you can contact your NGB Lead or the BDA here:

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

The Child Protection in Sport Unit also have lots of great resources webinars and podcasts <https://thecpsu.org.uk/>

Awareness Days



October – Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Campaign 6th-12th

November Safeguarding Adults Week 17th-21st

<https://www.annrafttrust.org/events/safeguarding-adults-week/>

Safeguarding Bulletin

June 2025

This Month's Focus – Is safeguarding visible in your club?

It is important that your club has a welcoming environment and all who attend the club should be aware of who to contact if they have concerns.

Here are some tips to ensure safeguarding is visible in your club:

- Details of who to contact / how to report.
- Posters in the club with the name and contact details of the Safeguarding Officer.
- Definitions of safeguarding categories available for members to read.
- Reminders that safeguarding is a collective responsibility.

Codes of Conduct / Constitutions:

- Are they in place?
- Are expectations of behaviour clear?
- Does your code of conduct mention the safeguarding policy?
- Are members aware of what happens if they break the code of conduct?

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility....**

BDA Resources

To help support your clubs the BDA has a range of resources on our website. This includes templates for posters, a safeguarding checklist and a range of guidance documents, as well as the policies and details of how to report concerns.

Follow the link to check out all the resources on offer:

[Resources - Bowls Development Alliance](#)



Awareness Days



9th June – Loneliness Awareness Week

[Home | Loneliness Awareness Week](#)

June – Pride Month

[Pride: What is it and why do people celebrate it? - BBC Newsround](#)



Safeguarding Bulletin

April 2025

This Month's Focus – Discriminatory Abuse

Discriminatory abuse is when someone is treated differently due to protected characteristics:

- Age
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage status (including civil partnerships)
- Being pregnant or on maternity leave
- Disability
- Race (including skin colour, nationality, or a person's ethnic or national origin)
- Religious belief
- Sex, and sexual orientation

Discriminatory abuse can happen in the workplace, in public settings, while using public services and in private organisations and clubs. These are examples, but this list is not exhaustive.

Examples of discriminatory abuse include:

- **Direct Discrimination.** Treating someone with a protected characteristic less favourably than others.
- **Indirect Discrimination.** Putting rules or arrangements in place that apply to everyone, but that put someone with a protected characteristic at an unfair disadvantage.
- **Harassment.** Unwanted behaviour linked to a protected characteristic that violates someone's dignity or creates a hostile environment for them.
- **Victimisation.** Treating someone unfairly because they've complained about discrimination or harassment. **(Ann Craft Trust 2025)**

If you feel you have been discriminated against in your club, we encourage you to report this to your safeguarding Officer.

If you or someone close to you has experienced discrimination due to disability, outside of the sport, the Ann Craft Trust can provide advice. Call 0115 9515400

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility....**

Calling all Safeguarding Officers!

Are you new to the role?

Do you need some advice and guidance on how to increase awareness in your club?

If you would like to know more about the resources on offer, to support safeguarding in clubs, the BDA website has lots to offer. You can find policies, guidance and templates by following this link:

[Resources - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

If you have any questions, you can contact your NGB Lead or the BDA here:

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

Awareness Days



April – Stress Awareness Month

[Stress Awareness Month 2025](#)

[Resource Page - The Stress Management Society](#)

May – Mental health Awareness Week 12th – 18th May

[Mental Health Awareness Week | Mental Health Foundation](#)



Safeguarding Bulletin

February 2025

This Month's Focus – Psychological / Emotional Abuse

Psychological abuse is the **regular and deliberate use of words and non-physical actions to manipulate, hurt, weaken or frighten a person** and to distort, confuse or influence their thoughts and actions. It is also referred to as emotional abuse (safelives.org)

Types of psychological abuse:

- Preventing expression of opinion or choice
- Enforcing social isolation
- Threatening harm or abandonment
- Removing mobility or communication aids
- Intimidation, coercion, harassment, bullying, use of threats, verbal abuse
- Restricting access to religious and cultural needs

Signs and indicators:

- Preventing expression of opinion or choice
- Enforcing social isolation
- Threatening harm or abandonment
- Removing mobility or communication aids
- Intimidation, coercion, harassment, bullying, use of threats, verbal abuse
- Restricting access to religious and cultural needs

If you have concerns about emotional abuse, please contact your NGB lead or the BDA Safeguarding Manager

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility....



Roadshows

Join us for our roadshows and find out about the benefits of affiliation and all the support you can get for your club!

- Wednesday 26th February – County Arts IBC (Norfolk), [Register here](#)
- Thursday 27th February – Swale (Kent), [Register here](#)
- Tuesday 4th March – Bodmin IBC (Cornwall), [Register here](#)
- Thursday 6th March – Malvern Hills IBC (Worcestershire), [Register here](#)
- Tuesday 11th March – New Earswick IBC (York), [Register here](#)

⌚ Each session runs from **11:00 am to 4:00 pm** and includes light refreshments.

Awareness Days



February – National Heart Month

[Heart Month February 2025 | HEART UK](#)

February – LGBTQ+ History Month

[- LGBT+ History Month](#)

March 1st – Self – injury Awareness Day

[Self Harm Awareness Day - Harmless](#)

Safeguarding Bulletin

December 2024

This Month's Focus – The Role of a Safeguarding Officer

Many people think being a Safeguarding Officer means you must make decisions about safeguarding cases. However, as a Safeguarding Officer the National Governing Bodies (NGB's) are not asking you to investigate concerns, you just need to be a point of contact and report any concerns to your NGB Lead Safeguarding Officer.

We advise that a Safeguarding Officer has the following skills:

- Basic administration and secure record maintenance.
- Communication skills.
- Experience working with people in a safeguarding context is desirable.

Club Safeguarding Officers should be:

- Enthusiastic about creating a safe and positive environment in our sport.
- Given access to information and training appropriate to the role.
- Clearly identified to all members with their contact details and preferably a photograph, via handbooks, web sites, noticeboards or similar.
- The first port of call for any member of the bowls club or county association to report a safeguarding concern.
- Promoting safeguarding information to their county association or club members.
- Reporting all safeguarding concerns to the NGB Safeguarding Officer **via their County Safeguarding Officer**. The County Safeguarding Officer will also report concerns to the Lead Officer of your NGB.

If you are interested in becoming a Safeguarding Officer or are already in post and you have questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

Coach Bowls

Coach Bowls have new courses for safeguarding. The Safeguarding Awareness course is suitable for coaches, umpires and a range of volunteers. This course and the Safeguarding Officer course can be accessed via the below link.

[Our Courses | Coach Bowls](#)

Awareness Days

December 2nd – National Grief Awareness Week [Home – The Good Grief Trust](#)

December 5th – International Volunteers Day [INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY - December 5, 2024 - National Today](#)



Weeks of Learning

Our week of learning is back on the week commencing January 20th. The safeguarding focus is "Safeguarding Children and Young People"

Sign up here:

[Education - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

Safeguarding Bulletin

October 2024

This month's focus: Financial Abuse

Financial abuse is the **mistreatment of someone in terms of their money or assets**, such as their property (Age UK)

Types of financial abuse can include:

- Theft of money
- Misuse of power of attorney
- Arranging less care than necessary to save inheritance money
- Preventing someone access to their own money
- Someone moving into someone's home rent free without agreement
- Undue pressure or threats for someone to take loans, transfer money
- Denying assistance to access benefits
- False representation – using someone else's cards or bank account
- Scamming / fraud

What are the signs of financial abuse?

- Unexplained lack of money
- Power of attorney gained after someone has ceased to have mental capacity
- Individual assigned to look after financial affairs is evasive or uncooperative
- Recent changes in deeds or title to property
- Family or others show unusual interest in assets of the person
- Disparity between the persons living conditions and financial resources e.g. lack of food in the house

Worried about yourself or someone else?

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

[Financial abuse: spotting the signs and leaving safely \(moneyhelper.org.uk\)](#)



Awareness Days

October – Black History Month

[Reclaiming Narratives: Theme for Black History Month 2024 - Black History Month 2024](#)

22nd October – International Stammering Awareness Day

[Events | STAMMA](#)

Weeks of Learning

On the 14th and 18th of October the BDA are delivering online sessions about Safeguarding Adults. Learn about the categories of adult abuse and how to report concerns.

You can sign up here:

[Education - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

Safeguarding Bulletin

August 2024

This month's focus: Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits (Harvard Health)

ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia fall under the category of Neurodiversity.

Research suggests that Neurodiverse children and young people are at an increased risk of experiencing abuse. Abuse can also be overlooked as signs or indicators of abuse could be interpreted as a characteristic of the individual's disability.

To help create a meaningful experience for a neurodiverse member here are a few suggestions:

- Remember that an individual needs to be considered as a person first, not just considered for their disability.
- Be led by the individual and do not make assumptions about their needs.
- Can you make small adaptions? For example, lower-level lighting, a quiet space for people to access, small group sessions.
- Increase your knowledge about neurodiversity.

Weeks of Learning

On the 12th and 15th of August the BDA are delivering online sessions about Safer Membership.

You can sign up here:

[Education - Bowls Development](#)

Awareness Days

12th August: International Youth Day

[International Youth Day - Background](#)
[| United Nations](#)

September 10th: World Suicide Prevention Day

[World Suicide Prevention Day](#)
[Campaigns](#) | [Samaritans](#)

13th September: Stand Up To Cancer Day

[About](#) | [Stand Up To Cancer](#)

Do you know who to contact?

The following link takes you to useful safeguarding contacts, including your NGB lead:

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](#)



Coach Bowls Course Update

Coach Bowls have developed a "Safeguarding Officer" training course, that replaces the Child, Adult and Time to Listen courses. This means Safeguarding Officers now only need to complete one course, making it more time efficient and cost effective for all.

Follow the link to book a date and check out the other courses on offer: [Our Courses | Coach Bowls](#)

Safeguarding Bulletin

June 2024

This month's focus: Banter vs Bullying

What is Banter?

Banter is teasing or joking that is amusing and friendly between people where there is no power imbalance. Most importantly it is an exchange and not one way – each giving and taking an equal share of the teasing. It is neither designed to nor has the effect of shaming, upsetting, belittling, offending or otherwise making anyone hearing it uncomfortable.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is **repeated** behaviour that causes physical or emotional harm whether intended or not. It can be offensive, insulting, humiliating, abusive, intimidating or malicious. Bullying doesn't require intent, what is important is the impact it has on the person being bullied.

When does banter cross the line?

In a group situation, if someone seems to get teased more than others, or is the repeated target of a joke, then it's not really banter anymore. That person is being singled out. Often people will not be confident enough to stand up for themselves if they are hurt by something. They don't want to be considered someone who can't take a joke, so will often laugh along so as not to draw attention to themselves. This means that everyone is still under the illusion that this is banter, not bullying, and it will only be reinforced! Don't be a bystander – if you suspect that some banter has become offensive to anyone involved, don't laugh. Even better – call it out! Just because someone calls it banter, it doesn't mean it is banter!

Antibullying Resources

[Free CPD online training \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

[You searched for bullying - Ann Craft Trust](https://www.anncrafttrust.org.uk)

Awareness Days

June: Pride Month [Pride Month 2024: Origins, Parades & Dates | HISTORY](https://www.pride-month.com/)

June 5th: World Environment Day [World Environment Day 2024 \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/)

Do you know who to contact?

The following link takes you to useful safeguarding contacts, including your NGB lead:

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](https://www.bowlsdevelopmentalliance.org.uk/useful-contacts-links)



Roles and Responsibilities

The BDA website has lots of resources you can access for clarity on the roles and responsibilities of different Committee Members and the Safeguarding Officer:

[Education - Bowls Development Alliance](https://www.bowlsdevelopmentalliance.org.uk/education)

[Resources - Bowls Development Alliance](https://www.bowlsdevelopmentalliance.org.uk/resources)