



## **Sport Welfare Officer Network**

*Providing local, professional support for club welfare officers*

### **Overview for Partner Organisations**

#### **What is the Sport Welfare Officer Network?**

Across England, sports clubs and organisations are being supported by a new network of Sport Welfare Officers. They have been recruited by **Active Partnerships** and funded by **Sport England** through an investment of **National Lottery money**.

The Sport Welfare Officers are working with **National Governing Bodies (NGBs)** and key partners, such as the **NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit** and **Ann Craft Trust**, to develop a new local approach to assisting and supporting club welfare officers, to create safer club environments and improved experiences for young people and adults.

The aim of the network is to increase welfare capacity and expertise at a local and national level and share best practice to help prevent concerns, making sport safe for everyone.

The programme will see 63 Sport Welfare Officers employed across the network of 43 Active Partnerships. This network will be supported by the Active Partnerships National Organisation. The programme contributes towards the Uniting the Movement strategy and is one of Sport England's commitments in the [policy response to the Whyte Review](#), published by Sport England and UK Sport.

The Whyte Review questioned the level of responsibility and support given to volunteers at grassroots level. The network, in place until March 2027, will complement a sport's existing NGB safeguarding services and provide additional local capacity to help support safeguarding compliance to become embedded in the culture.

#### **What is the purpose of a Sport Welfare Officer's role?**

It is a Sport Welfare Officer's role to;

- Provide additional, local support for club welfare officers
- Signpost clubs to the right advice and guidance
- Work with club welfare officers to create a safer culture within their organisation
- Facilitate local training opportunities and events
- Create networks so that volunteers and staff feel better connected and informed
- Recognise, share and develop best practice
- Help raise awareness of safeguarding and welfare for young people and adults at local events

For the avoidance of doubt, it is **not** the Sport Welfare Officer's role to;

- Advise on or manage concerns – all concerns must be referred without delay in accordance with National Governing Body / Club Safeguarding Policy.

### **Want to find out more?**

If you are interested in getting in touch locally, a list of all Sport Welfare Officers in post can be found here;

[Sport Welfare Officer Network | Active Partnerships](#)

For further information on the programme, please contact the Active Partnerships National Organisation;

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