Club Safeguarding Officers Newsletter – October

As many of you read this, your club may have started some form of off-season training. For many of you, I imagine it feels like cricket runs for 12 months of the year. Hopefully you managed to find some time to decompress before the off-season training starts/started. In the summer of 2026, across the different competition formats in Kent: Junior leagues, cups, festivals, leagues, Open age leagues, friendlies and open age cup competitions, there were over 6,600 fixtures completed. Those fixtures take a number of different individuals within a club to get those games completed but, they are all built on a solid Safeguarding Foundation, created by you at your club.

My Role in Safeguarding At Kent Cricket

For the past year I have taken responsibility for supporting clubs with safeguarding and been the initial person you should contact with any questions or concerns. Bridget's role now just involves working for the Professional club with safeguarding responsibility for the club including the talent pathway which now has almost 1600 children. We both cover for each other, but please direct all your club enquiries to me.

Safer Recruitment

We would like to remind clubs about adhering to the ECB Safer recruitment process when new volunteers join your club. There have been several reports of clubs using people in roles of regulated activity and not adhering to the process. Some clubs have been using individuals without having a DBS in place as a minimum. If you need refreshing of the safer recruitment process, here is the link to the safer recruitment information from the Safeguarding kit bag - Safer-Recruitment.pdf. Please don't think that if someone shows you their DBS, it has been cleared by the ECB. Once the DBS is issued, it is the property of the person, and the ECB cannot retract it. However, the ECB sometimes cancel their DBS status, often due to a police investigation or similar. The only way you will know, is by checking SHMS, or e mailing me to check.

ECB Club Accreditation Status– CSO Actions

ECB Accredited Club Status, which replaces the former Clubmark scheme, is a framework designed to help cricket clubs in England and Wales raise operational standards and provide a safe, welcoming environment for players, volunteers, and members of all ages. It demonstrates that a club is well-run, sustainable, and committed to inclusivity, giving assurance to parents, carers, and participants that the club is a trusted place for cricket. If your club held Clubmark accreditation between 2022 and 2025, you'll need to complete the new ECB Accredited Club status process in 2027. This isn't a re-accreditation exercise — it's a refreshed process, moving to a pre-season window (January – April 2027) instead of an in-season one.

There will be someone within your club leading on Club Accreditation but there will be tasks you can do to help the club achieve Club Accreditation Status:

- Review and update your club Safe Hands Policy Statement - Club-Safeguarding-Policy-Statement-Template-MARCH-2026.docx
- Update your committee details and safeguarding officer information on Play-Cricket and SHMS following any AGM elections.
- Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) club profile fully up to date and compliant, with key roles added to SHMS
- Club Safeguarding Officer holds a valid DBS check, SGL2 and Safe Hands so will be compliant on SHMS
- Captains, coaches and managers all DBS-checked and cleared SHMS compliance. Check the number of adult teams you have match the number of captains listed
- Check the number of junior players you have and make sure you have the correct number of coaches loaded to SHMS. The system works on a ratio of 1 coach to 24 players. For example, if you have 122 players you will require 6 coaches listed on SHMS.
- Make sure the number of Age Group managers matches the number of teams you have.

If anyone in your club has questions about Club Accreditation Status, they can email Pete Jones – peter.jones@kentcricket.co.uk

Safehands courses 2027

I am currently in the process of arranging Safehands courses for 2027. I try and spread them as geographically across the county as I can. I am planning courses in Canterbury, Beckenham, Medway & Maidstone, but am open to running courses in other areas. If your club would like to host, please get in touch with me – safeguarding@kentcricket.co.uk

DBS Price change for Individuals in paid roles

From Monday 5 October 2026 there will be a reduction in DBS fees for those individuals who may be a in a paid role at your clubs.

The main changes that will impact the cricket network are:

- Enhanced DBS Check: reduced from £49.50 to £41.00
- DBS Update Service: reduced from £16.00 to £15.00 per year

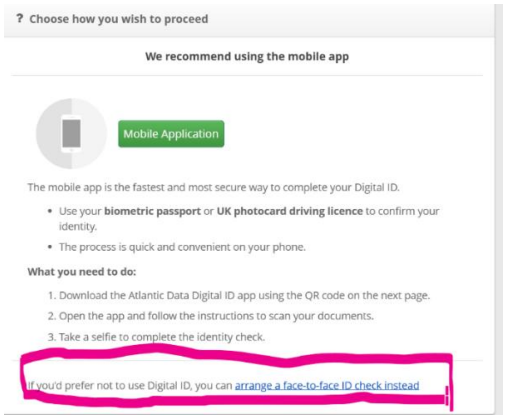
Please note there is no change for volunteers. ECB will continue to fund volunteer DBS checks, so clubs and volunteers will not see any difference in the cost of volunteer applications. The fee reduction will benefit **paid staff applications**, where the lower DBS and Update Service fees will be applied from 5 October onwards. Atlantic Data has updated their system, and the new reduced charges have now taken effect.

DBS - Digital IDS

A reminder from the previous newsletter, the ECB are now offering Digital ID verification as an option for DBS applications. This provides an alternative to face-to-face ID verification and allows applicants to verify their identity remotely using a digital process.

The Digital ID option is entirely optional, and volunteers can still choose to complete a free face-to-face ID verification, as they have done previously. The individual initiating the DBS is required to select Digital ID verification, however when the applicant completes the check, they can choose to either have their ID verified face-to-face or digitally.

There is a lot of information about digital IDS but when they get to the page titled, *choose how you wish to proceed*, there is an option at the bottom that says if you prefer not to use Digital ID, ***arrange here for face to face ID check***. Picture below.



It is important to note that there is a **£4.92** cost associated with the Digital ID verification, which is paid by the applicant should they choose this route.
Full details of the process, including what applicants will need and how it works, can be found in the ECB Safehands Zendesk article: https://safehands.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/35366220165533-DBS-application-Digital-ID-verification-process

Safeguarding Adults Week 2026 – 16th – 22nd November

The Ann Craft Trust will be running a series of free online seminars throughout Safeguarding Adults Week. Each session will explore some of the week's key themes, along with a focus on Every Voice and Every Choice. Safeguarding Adults Week is a time to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. Ann Craft Trust believe that working in partnerships allows them to share their knowledge of safeguarding, learn from others, and work towards creating safer cultures. During this year's event, Ann Craft Trust will be collaborating with our partners to explore a different safeguarding theme each day.

Monday 16 November

- 10:00 am - Safeguarding Adults Week 2026 Official Launch - Safeguarding Starts With Listening
- 11:00 am - Camphill Village Trust: 'All the people that are important to me work together': Collaboration between families, carers and the people they support.
- 12:00 pm - OXIL Research share the latest findings from their research into financial abuse

Tuesday 17 November

- 10:30 am - Planning Ahead: How Lasting Power of Attorney Can Protect Voice, Choice, and Autonomy - With Office of the Public Guardian
- 12:00 pm - The Where I Want to Live Toolkit: Moving beyond assumptions and enabling informed decision-making
- 3:00 pm - The Ann Craft Trust: Challenging Identity: How does intersectionality impact our capacity to make safeguarding personal?

Thursday 19 November

- 10:30 am - Dementia Carers Count: Professional Curiosity: Improving support, safeguarding and outcomes with Dementia Carers Count
- 12:00 pm - Professional Curiosity in Practice: Recognising and Raising Concerns About Attorneys and Deputies - Q&A with Office of the Public Guardian

Friday 20 November

- 11:00 am - UK Sports Institute: Listening to and learning from victims of abuse

Free safeguarding gaming and gambling harms workshop

Information below about an upcoming CPD session YGAM are holding for Kent FA for those supporting children and young people in a sports setting. As a sports professional or volunteer, you're uniquely positioned to protect young people in a world where gaming, gambling and sport are increasingly connected. YGAM training equips you with the knowledge to identify these risks and safeguard the young people in your care.

Through engaging, evidence-based training, you'll develop a deep understanding of how gaming and gambling affect young athletes, confidence in spotting early warning signs, and practical strategies for prevention. They will explore the unique pressures and influences in sporting environments, so you can identify risks and provide effective support.

"Children today are growing up in an environment where gambling is normalised at every turn, on their screens, in sport, and across social media. The evidence is clear that early exposure increases the risk of harm later in life."
Alex Ballinger MP, Co-Chair of the Gambling Reform APPG

All you need to do is sign up at the link below and you will emailed the Teams link the day before.
Date: 22nd Oct 2026
Time: 18.00-20.00
Registration Link: Sign up Link- 22.10.26 18.00-20.00 Ygam Kent FA Gaming and Gambling Harms

Further Reading

We are featuring an article in each newsletter for those wanting to find more out about safeguarding in general. These are not cricket related, and not compulsory reading! Just for interest….

Rather than an article, we are sharing a link to the organisation Differing Minds - Neurodiversity training UK | Workplace courses | Differing Minds Differing Minds is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company based in the UK, delivering neurodiversity training globally. Differing Minds exist to challenge the invisible rules that exclude neurodivergent people from work and life. They produce a weekly email newsletter with articles about Neurodiversity, how we can learn more about Neurodiversity and how we can make changes in our clubs that will help individuals who are Neurodiverse.

Helpful Guidance & Support

Anyone delivering coaching sessions isn't expected to be a mental health expert, but we all have a duty to support people in our sessions. Often small, everyday actions can make a big difference. More information can be found on Mind's website:

- **Spot** the signs someone may be struggling
- **Suppor**t them, if you feel able to
- **Signpost** them to help and services

Spot. Support. Signpost | Sport and mental health - Mind

And finally, just to remind you:

WeCare – FREE Support for Safeguarding Officers

In recognition of the hard work, you do, and knowing the role of Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) can sometimes be challenging and demanding, the Cricket Regulator have partnered with Canada Life and are able to offer you free, confidential support. WeCare provides an extensive range of virtual services delivering holistic support if you need medical, legal, well-being support or 24/7 access to a GP. Your immediate family members can also use this service. To access this support, please get in touch with Bridget or Peter, and they will provide you with the access code and won't ask for any other details. Further details of WeCare can be found here.

Thank you once again for being one of our Safeguarding Officers, helping to make cricket a safe place for children and adults.

Useful Information & Contact Details

Email for all Safeguarding Questions and Concerns: safeguarding@kentcricket.co.uk.
This inbox will be checked daily on weekdays by either Pete or Bridget

Peter Jones – Deputy County Safeguarding Officer 07984 908481 covering all community clubs
Bridget Owen – County Safeguarding Officer 07807 026247 – covering the professional club

Our Website - Find all you need to know about safeguarding at your club on our website
ECB Website - Find all the safeguarding information from the Cricket Regulator on the ECB website.
ECB Kit Bag: ECB resources
DBS team at ECB: dbs@ecb.co.uk
Safe Hands Helpdesk: safehands@ecb.co.uk
E learning Helpdesk: elearning@ecb.co.uk

No longer a CSO? - Please let us know if you are no longer your Club's SO and we will ensure you no longer receive these newsletters. It is helpful if you could also let us know who IS the CSO at your club.

Would you like to hear from us? Kent Cricket Foundation publishes regular E-newsletters with the latest news, opportunities, club competitions, and announcements relevant to recreational cricket which are free to subscribe to. If you don't already receive it - sign up here or let your committee know.