

## KEY ACTION AREA 1.1:

The SSA makes a public commitment to child safety.

### OVERVIEW

It is important for your SSA to have a clear and realistic public statement of commitment to child safety that is developed in collaboration between your Board, staff, volunteers and members (see [Template 1.1 for an example](#)).

This will:

- **Demonstrate to existing SSA members** that you are prioritising the safety of children and young people within your sport. This will increase their confidence about the environment provided by your sport to children and young people and empower them to raise suggestions for improvements or concerns about the wellbeing of a child or young person. Demonstrating your SSA's commitment to child safety may also increase member retention.
- **Inform future or potential members and the general public** about the importance your SSA places on child safety. This can be a strong factor in your sport attracting and retaining participants, and increasing membership.
- **Show children and young people** they are a focus and priority. This will increase the chances of children and young people feeling welcomed and valued, and that their voice and feedback will be heard and are important. This, in turn, may increase the chances of a child or young person feeling confident to speak up if they have been or are being harmed, if they wish to raise a concern, or if they simply want to suggest an idea for improvement.

A Statement of your SSA's commitment to child safety and wellbeing that is actively promoted may also contribute to deterring a potential perpetrator from targeting your SSA. It sends a clear message that your SSA has a zero-tolerance approach to any form of harm to children and young people and will take immediate action if harm does occur.

Once your SSA has developed a public commitment of child safety, it is vital to actively communicate this throughout the association (including to all staff and volunteers, members, clubs and the general public). For example, you can promote your public statement of child safety:

- in a prominent position on your website
- through social media platforms
- in newsletters, annual reports and other written materials
- on posters and pull up banners
- in job and volunteer adverts
- in speeches
- in competitions, matches and game day communication.

[View Template 1.1](#)



<b>EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 1.1</b>	Develop a clear public statement of the SSA's commitment to child safety.
	Ensure the SSA public statement of commitment to child safety is available and visible for everyone (including all staff and volunteers; members; clubs; and the general public).
	Actively communicate and share the SSA public statement of commitment to child safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• on the SSA website and social media pages.</li><li>• in newsletters and other written materials.</li><li>• on posters.</li><li>• during competitions, matches and games.</li><li>• in recruitment, induction and general information.</li><li>• to clubs through verbal conversations, through email correspondence and during club training and education.</li></ul>

The information in this document is general in nature and does not constitute legal or professional advice (including advice relating to child safeguarding). SportWest is not liable to users for any loss resulting from the use of this document and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or your reliance on it. SportWest recommends users seek independent advice as necessary. [Click here](#) for the full disclaimer relating to SportWest child safeguarding documents.

If you need support:

> [Mental health community links](#)

> [Reporting flowchart](#)

