



Plymouth Argyle Football Club Prevent Policy

Written by: Designated Safeguarding Officer
Endorsed by: Senior Safeguarding Manager on behalf of PAFC Board of Directors.

Plymouth Argyle Football Club

Prevent Policy

1. Confidentiality and Managing a Concern

- 1.1 PAFC ensure that confidentiality of safeguarding cases is maintained. Everyone is told to report safeguarding concerns, however small. This includes any concerns of extremism or radicalisation. Exposing any person to extreme behaviours is a form of emotional abuse and is a safeguarding risk.
- 1.2 The secure safeguarding reporting and case management system 'My Concern' is used by PAFC for reporting safeguarding concerns. Only the Designated Safeguarding Officer and essential people involved will be aware on a need-to-know basis
- 1.3 Statutory information sharing protocols will be followed where necessary including the FA safeguarding case management, the EFL safeguarding team, the local authority and the police.
- 1.4 A child centred approach to safeguarding is at the centre of the PAFC ethos. Wherever possible the young or vulnerable person will be involved in every aspect of managing the concern.
- 1.5 If a person is at immediate risk of harm or about to become the victim of a crime, the police must be informed via 999. Referral for any issue concerning potential radicalisation to extremism should be managed as any other safeguarding referral, and with the individual's consent.
- 1.6 The Designated Safeguarding Officer provides the lead for PAFC on Prevent and can be contacted directly for any concerns or for clarification on process. All concerns must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer, either directly or via 'My Concern'.

2 Allegations made against an employee or anyone engaged by PAFC

- 2.1 PAFC operate in an open and transparent manner. Any concerns relating to a member of staff or volunteer, should be recorded via the 'My Concern' App and the DSO informed. PAFC record all allegations and follow Low Level Concerns principles.
- 2.2 Where necessary PAFC will work in partnership with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), the FA Safeguarding Case Management Team and EFL Safeguarding Team. PAFC have a whistleblowing policy.

3 Principles of the Prevent Strategy

- 3.1 The Prevent Strategy was published by the government in 2011, as part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim is to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism or non-violent extremism. PAFC understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. We have drawn information from the latest government update, March 2023.
- 3.2 The Designated Safeguarding Officer is the responsible person for Prevent, PAFC have a Prevent Risk Assessment and action plan. PAFC support the Governments Prevent duty.
- 3.3 PAFC staff receive safeguarding induction and training, which includes identifying vulnerabilities which may lead to extremist views and radicalisation.
- 3.4 Radicalisation can take place through direct personal contact, or indirectly through the internet or social media. Extremism can refer to a wide range of views, racism, homophobia, right-wing ideology in addition to any religious extremism. It should be remembered that Islamist ideology should not be confused with traditional religious practice. Islamist ideology is based on a distorted interpretation of Islam, which betrays Islam's peaceful principles.
- 3.5 Anybody from any background can become radicalised. The grooming of children and/or adults at risk for the purpose of involvement in extremist activity is a serious safeguarding issue.
- 3.6 Any person who is vulnerable is more susceptible to be influenced, including: loss of identity or belonging, isolation, exclusion, mental health difficulties, personal crisis, sense of injustice, bereavement, or themselves a victim of hate or discrimination.
- 3.7 Children have travelled abroad either willingly or by coercion where they have been subject to harm (for example FGM), or radicalisation. If you have any concerns either prior to or after travel, this concern must be recorded.
- 3.8 The Channel Process is a multi-agency collaboration led by the Local Authority providing support to those who may be more susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. The overall aim of the programme is early intervention and diverting people away from the risk they may face.
- 3.9 PAFC build resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling our young to challenge extremist views. PAFC support the British Values of, democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, as set out in the Governments Prevent Strategy.
- 3.10 PAFC values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Those we engage with and all employees have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is values. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing, equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.
- 3.11 PAFC encourages the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our young an fans in general; however, we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences. This includes where appropriate checking the DBS of external providers, viewing material that will

be used beforehand and conducting a social media check on such agencies or individuals.

- 3.13 Any visiting speakers or presenters will be checking for content prior to arrival and invites will be withdrawn if their views do not follow PAFC expectations of conduct or values
- 3.14 PAFC have strong IT policies and protocols and filters to mitigate searching extreme material while at the premises or using our IT remotely.

4 Partnerships

- 4.1 The Prevent strategy uses effective partnerships. We work closely with statutory agencies, football regulators and appropriate organisations and follow the safeguarding information sharing principles.
- 4.2 PAFC work in partnership with Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership and other relevant multi-agency partnerships, including the Plymouth Prevent Partnership. PAFC abide by safeguarding information sharing protocols with statutory agencies, including the police.
- 4.3 PAFC work closely with the FA and EFL safeguarding teams to ensure compliance with a football wide governance.
- 4.4 There are regular meetings between the safeguarding teams of PAFC and the ACT, to confirm strong team working and collaboration.
- 4.5 The PAFC policy will be consistent with the full Prevent Strategy outlined here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- 4.6 The full CONTEST strategy outlined by the Government can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest>

5 Useful contacts

- 5.1 If a young or vulnerable person is at risk of immediate harm: 999
- 5.2 Devon and Cornwall Police (Prevent Office): 01392 225130
[Prevent | Devon & Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)
- 5.3 Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership: 01752 668000
gateway@plymouth.gov.uk
- 5.4 Designated Safeguarding Officer: safeguarding@pafc.co.uk
- 5.5 Childline: 0800 1111
- 5.6 NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000

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