

Vauxhall Motors FC – Open Age - Safeguarding Risk Assessment

• PART A: INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CLUB

CLUB DETAILS	
Club name	Vauxhall Motors FC
League	Northern Premier League – West Division
County FA	Cheshire FA
Approx. No. of U18 players playing open-age football:	10
Approx No. of U18 players involved in linked affiliated youth teams (where applicable):	40
Approx No. of participants within the 16-19 academy / education provision (where applicable):	N/A



CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN USE	YES	NO
Safeguarding children	✓	
Adults at risk	✓	
Social media use	✓	
Use of photograph and filming		
Anti-bullying	✓	
Code of Conduct, including acceptable behaviour		
Equality, diversity, and inclusion		
Managing challenging behaviour		
Matchday safeguarding plan	✓	
Data/Information sharing		
Complaints		
Whistleblowing	✓	

CLUB WELFARE OFFICER (ADULT TEAMS)	
Name:	Jonathon Waring
Email:	jon.waring@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk
Phone:	07768 640 618

CLUB BOARD SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION	
Name:	Rebecca Holland
Email:	Rebeccaholland1@live.co.uk
Phone:	07846 347 458

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PART B: SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

AREA OF CONCERN	WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS TO CHILDREN (U18S) / ADULTS AT RISK OF HARM.	RISK LEVEL	ACTION TO REDUCE OR REMOVE THE RISK / CONCERNS?	RESPONSIBILITY	CHANGE TO RISK LEVEL	REVIEW ACTIVITY (WHO?)
1. CLUB ORGANISATION & LEADERSHIP						
Policy and Procedures	Safeguarding procedures are not clearly defined. Those within club are unaware of their safeguarding responsibilities.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A club Safeguarding Policy exists, which fits the context of club. The Safeguarding Policy is reviewed at board level on annual basis. The Safeguarding Policy is widely shared with staff, volunteers, and players – including at induction to the club. The Safeguarding Policy is public facing on the club website. 	CWO,	Low	CWO (Club Welfare Officer), AWO (Adult Welfare Officer), CBSC Club Board Safeguarding Champion)
Board level strategic Oversight	Where safeguarding is not championed from the top level of a club it's importance may not be realised by those working within it.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The club have appointed a Board Safeguarding Champion with suitable knowledge, skills, and experience. The Board Safeguarding Champion regularly engages with the Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) and / or assistant(s). Safeguarding is a standing item at board meetings and appears in relevant club strategy and business plans. 	CBSC	Low	CWO, CBSC, AWO
Visibility of the named safeguarding person* (*Club Welfare Officer- Adult Teams or another local title)	Without visibility of the Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) people may not know who to contact in the case of a safeguarding concern. U18s may not be listened to and where abuse exists, it may continue.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Club Welfare Officer's (Adult Teams) name and method by which they are contactable are available via the club website. FA provided safeguarding posters for steps 1-4, are displayed in prominent places around the club. Induction sessions for new players, parents/carers take place. These include an outline of the Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) role and details of how they can be contacted. Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) is accessible and is active within the club to ensure safeguarding has high visibility. 	CWO, ACWO, Team Coaches	Medium	CWO, CBSC, AWO

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) is proactive in providing opportunities for U18 players to share experiences, views, and opinions. 			
Codes of conduct	<p>Unacceptable behaviour that could physically or emotionally damage individuals could go unchallenged.</p> <p>Poor safeguarding culture becomes normalised.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codes of Conduct are in place. Codes of Conduct are shared and agreed to annually with all staff / volunteers / players. Procedures are in place to report a breach of the Codes of Conduct and respond to such breaches. 	CWO	Low	CWO, CBSC, AWO
2. OPERATIONAL RISKS						
Consent (Participation)	Parents / carers unaware of their child's involvement.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate consent forms are obtained from the U18 player / and their parent / carer in line with FA Safeguarding Guidance Note 8.2. 	Registration Secretary	Low	CWO
Consent (Photography, Social media / commercial activity)	<p>U18 with protection orders could be identified and location recognised.</p> <p>U18 may not be prepared for media interest / exposure – which may not all be positive.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate consent forms obtained from the U18 player / and their parent / carer in line with FA Safeguarding Guidance Note 8.3. Where media interest is anticipated, an appropriate member of club staff supports the U18 player / and their parent / carer. 	Registration Secretary	Low	CWO
Medical (Consent / information sharing)	Lack of awareness of an individual's medical needs may result in these not being met.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical consent from the U18 player / and their parent / carer, along with emergency contact information is collected in line with FA Safeguarding Guidance Note 8.2. Medical information is gathered in the player registration form and reviewed annually. Medical information sharing follows the club data protection policy. 	Registration Secretary	Low	CWO

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where medical needs are identified an appropriate member of club staff speaks to U18 player / and their parent / carer about procedures and processes that will be put into place to meet these. 			
Medical (Provision of)	An U18 does not receive appropriate medical care and attention.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Emergency Action Plan is in place and adhered to. All events, training and matches have an appropriately trained person responsible for the delivery of first aid. Medical staff are recruited following a safer recruitment process, have undertaken appropriate DBS checking and follow the club Code of Conduct. All Medical staff have induction and understand club safeguarding expectations and how they should raise a concern. Medical care is provided in line with FA Safeguarding Guidance Note 5.10. 	Physio, trained 1 st aider.	Low	CWO
Additional needs (Consent / information sharing)	Lack of awareness of an individual's additional needs may result in these not being met.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional needs information is gathered through player registration form or induction meeting. Where additional needs are identified an appropriate member of club staff to speak to U18 player / and their parent / carer about supportive procedures and processes that will be put into place. Additional needs information shared with those who need to know / are working directly with the player. 	AWO	Medium	CWO
Communications	<p>Risk of unwanted or inappropriate contact.</p> <p>Risk exposure to inappropriate content.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate consent forms obtained from the U18 player / and their parent / carer. Where team chat groups e.g. WhatsApp exist, an appropriate member of club staff reminds adult players about their expectations and conduct in relation to this. All players (adult and U18) reminded about how to raise a concern. 	AWO	Medium	CWO

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The club follow FA guidance on Digital Communications and Children 			
Staff / Volunteer suitability	Risk of unsuitable adults gaining access to and working with vulnerable participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club have a recruitment and selection process that aligns to the FA recommended process and is followed consistently. DBS checks are undertaken promptly for those who require them and before they start carrying out any DBS regulated activity. An induction process is in place for all new staff, which includes providing information related to safeguarding within their role, what to do if they have a concern and an introduction to key contacts, including the Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams). When engaging volunteers who are U18 consideration is given to the fact they are legally children. 	AWO	Low	CWO
Supervision (Inappropriate supervision of U18)	U18 are not appropriately supervised.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FA and Child Protection in Sport Unit supervision ratios are adhered to. DBS guidance related to U18 players is followed. U18 player always have access to a named point of contact. 	AWO	Low	CWO
Changing rooms (Open-Age team with adult and U18 players)	<p>Risk of unwanted or inappropriate contact.</p> <p>Photos taken in changing room and circulated without consent/used inappropriately e.g., sexual images/bullying/exploitation. Initiation activities with U18s.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An appropriate member of club staff speaks to U18 player(s) and ensures they are given the choice as to whether they want to shower / change at the same time as adult players. Alternative arrangements offered to U18 player –this may include the option to travel to game changed, change before adult teammates, or use a separate changing space. 	AWO	Low	CWO

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate member of club staff speaks with adult players re. expected behaviours, aligned to club Code of Conduct and use of mobile phones (cameras) Consent from U18 players / and their parent / carer is given. 			
Travel (Open-Age team with adult and U18 players)	<p>An U18 player may not feel comfortable to travel with adults.</p> <p>Risk of unwanted or inappropriate contact.</p> <p>Risk of grooming.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation between appropriate club official and U18 player regarding travel arrangements offered – this may include the option to have a parent on the coach or travel separately with parent. Team reminded of behaviours and expectations in line with Code of Conduct. Player has their own mobile and can ring parent at any time. Where travelling by private vehicle, the aforementioned opportunities are offered or minimum of three people travel together. Pre-agreed arrangements made for U18 onward travel upon return to the club (especially in relation to night games). Ongoing review of arrangements with U18 player. Consent from U18 player / and their parent / carer in relation to travel is given. 	AWO,	Medium	CWO
Overnight Stays (Open-Age team with adult and U18 players)	<p>Risk of unwanted or inappropriate contact.</p> <p>Risk of grooming.</p> <p>Opportunities for U18 player to be exposed to adult themes. (alcohol)</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent from U18 player / and their parent / carer in relation to overnight stays is given. No U18 player will share a room with an adult unless this is a related adult e.g., brother / cousin and agreed by the U18 player and their parent / carer. Conversation between appropriate club official and player and parent / carer regarding overnight stay and options to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a single room. Attend / stay with an adult family member. 	AWO, Club Committee.	Medium	CWO

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room with another U18 player (must be individual beds). • A separate risk assessment is undertaken which details specific arrangements related to this activity and the named person responsible for the U18 player. • FA guidance note related to travel and overnight stays has been considered. 			
Match day operations (Child activities)	Safeguarding is not considered as part of match day arrangement (child activities) which may create risk.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A match day plan includes consideration to safeguarding. • Where children are involved in match day activities (i.e. ball retrieval or mascots) appropriate supervision, procedures and consent are considered. 	CBSC	Low	CWO
Match day operations (Spectators)	Safeguarding (spectators) is not considered as part of match day arrangement which may create risk.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A match day plan exists that considers all health and safety risks. i.e. car parking. • A match day plan details identified safeguarding risks and mitigations; this includes (but is not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff / volunteer responsibilities. - Safer working procedures. / e.g. searching and ejecting spectators. - Process by which to raise a safeguarding concern. • Age of entry is clearly communicated, along with expected behaviour. 	CBSC	Low	CWO
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			
3. SAFEGUARDING TRAINING & EDUCATION						
Safeguarding Education (Staff and volunteers)	Lack of safeguarding knowledge may mean staff / volunteers are not able to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key staff, volunteers to complete FA safeguarding training relevant and required by their role. • Key staff and volunteers undertake Player Welfare in Open-Age Football Course. 	CBSC	Low	CWO

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal dates for safeguarding courses for all staff and volunteers are monitored to ensure recertification is completed in a timely manner. • Through meeting and briefings, all staff / volunteers remain updated with relevant safeguarding information as and when required – at least annually. • All staff / volunteers aware of NSPCC and FA Whistleblowing details. 			
Safeguarding education (Staff and volunteers)	Lack of safeguarding knowledge may mean players are not able to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players are reminded of their safeguarding responsibilities and agree to a Code of Conduct. • CWO and how to contact them is known to players. • U18 players are provided with copy of Know Your Rights in Football • All staff / volunteers aware of NSPCC and FA Whistleblowing details. 	AWO	Low	CWO
Safeguarding awareness raising	Lack of safeguarding knowledge may mean parents / carers are not able to effectively support this child and / or identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents / carers invited to a club induction • Parents / carers encouraged to complete The FA Safeguarding Awareness for Parents & Carers course 	AWO	Low	CWO
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			
4. MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AND CONCERNS						
Making a referral or raising a concern (Awareness club wide, including U18 players)	Lack of understanding about how or when to refer could result in a delay in referring or non-referral.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and volunteers follow the Safeguarding Policy regarding referring and managing an allegation or concern. • Club ensures all staff / volunteers are briefed and aware of their safeguarding duty. • Contact details for the Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) and referral process are readily available throughout the club, including the club website. 	CBSC, AWO	Low	CWO

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club ensures that all players have information pertaining to who they should raise concerns to and how. Club ensures that parents / carers of U18 know who they should raise concerns to and how. Club ensures that NSPCC and FA Whistleblowing contact details are known and shared throughout the club. 			
Confidential Information (Safeguarding records)	Confidential safeguarding information is not stored correctly and may be accessed.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club has systems in place to ensure that safeguarding records are stored in a secure manner. Information is shared only with those who are required to know. 	CWO, CBSC	Low	CWO
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			
5. WORKING TOGETHER						
External education providers Club relationship with post 16+ Education Provider Academy	Lack of joined up safeguarding process between club and 16+ education provider (academy) means that U18s have inconsistent experiences and concerns may be missed. Important information may not be shared.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An appropriate club representative meets with the education provider to discuss safeguarding on a regular basis. A safeguarding risk assessment is provided to the club by the education provider. This includes clear details around processes and procedures by which a referral is raised, and how information will be shared. The Education provider is aware of wider club risk assessment and expectations from club in relation to safeguarding process, recruitment, supervision, training, and general Health & Safety requirements linked to the use of club spaces. 	YCWO & AWO	Low	CWO
U18 player transition	Lack of joined up safeguarding process between youth and open-age teams may result in U18s	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWO (Youth) and CWO (Adult Teams) work together to plan transition for youth players into open-age football, ensuring that: (1) the needs of U18 player 	YCWO & AWO	Low	CWO

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(between youth teams and the open-age team)	having inconsistent experiences and concerns may be missed. Important information may not be shared.		are considered at each stage, (2) relevant information is shared and (3) an introduction between the U18 player and the new CWO (Adult Teams) takes place.			
U18 Loan Signings (Bringing in or loaning out an U18 player)	Safeguarding is not considered when an U18 player joins or leaves the club on a short-term arrangement.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An appropriate club official works with an appropriate official from the parent club / club taking player on loan to ensure that the loan move has safeguarding as a key consideration. An additional Risk Assessment is completed. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring U18 player has a local point of contact with whom they can raise concerns. Ensuring appropriate transport and accommodation are in place. Ensuring regular “check ins” with U18 by both the parent club and club at which the player is on loan. Player and parent are informed throughout process and consent is given. 	YCWO & AWO	Low	CWO
Relationships across the club (Links to Youth / Disability Football Teams)	Where purposeful relationships do not exist, an individual may have a different experience within different parts of the club. Concerns may go unreported or missed.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those involved with the running of the open-age team work with those involved with the delivery of Youth / Disability football to share information, knowledge, and opportunities to create a cohesive safeguarding culture. 	YCWO & AWO	Low	CWO
			•			
6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS						
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PART C: MEDICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (MEAP)

MEAP – TRAINING & MATCHDAY STADIUM

CLUB NAME:	Vauxhall Motors FC
CLUB ADDRESS:	Rivacre Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
POSTCODE:	CH661NJ

FIRST AID /HELPER INFORMATION	
Name:	Mobile Number
Jonathon Waring	07768 640 618
Dave Hall	07980 262 772
James Lyon	07793 080 611
Shirley Whittaker	07964 974 290

ACCESS ROUTES	
1. For Ambulance	Access AWP via double gates located within the rear temporary car park.
2. First-Aid Room to Ambulance	First Aid / Physio Room is located adjacent to Sports and Social Club within the main car park.
3. Pitch to Ambulance	Access Main Stadium via double gates from main car park.

FIRST-AID EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY	
Item	Location
Defibrillator	Physio Room (C04589), Sports & Social Club (Rear Entrance – Main Pitch), Arena Managers Office.
First-Aid kit	Sports & Social Club & Arena Managers Office
Stretcher (if required and trained stretcher bearers present)	Physio Room
First-Aid Room	Main Changing Room Facility

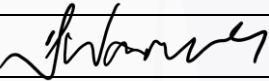
OTHER INFORMATION	
Item	Location
Nearest Hospital address: (with Emergency Department) Note: Include contact no.	Countess of Chester Hospital Accident and Emergency Department 01244 365 000
Directions to hospital:	CH66 1NJ Ellesmere Port Head north-east on Rivacre House towards Rivacre Rd/B5132 Continue on B5132. Take Overpool Rd, A5032 and Liverpool Rd to Vivienne Smith Ln in Upton Take Valley Dr to your destination in Chester 2 min (0.3 mi) Countess of Chester Hospital Accident and Emergency Department Liverpool Rd, Chester CH2 1UL

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Journey Time:	16 min (7.3 miles)
Nearest Walk-in Centre (WIA) address:	NHS Walk-in centre, 31 Eastham Rake, Eastham, Birkenhead, Wirral CH62 9AN 5 min (2.1 miles) via Rivacre Rd/B5132

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PART D: SIGN OFF AND DISTRIBUTION

SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:	
Name:	Jonathon Waring
Club/League role:	Chairman / Adult Welfare Officer
Signature:	
Date:	31 st January 2025

Name:	James Lyon
Club/League role:	Club Secretary / Vice Chairman
Signature:	
Date:	31 st January 2025

AGREED BY BOARD SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION:	
Name:	Rebecca Holland
Club/League role:	Club Welfare Officer / Safeguarding Champion.
Signature:	
Date:	31 st January 2025

RISK ASSESSMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST

NAME OF PERSON RECEIVING	ORGANISATION	DATE	DISTRIBUTED BY
David Hall	VMFC President	31/1/25	dave.hall@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk
Justine Hall	VMFC Treasurer	31/1/25	admin@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk
Mark Milward	VMFC Director of Football	31/1/25	mark.milward@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk
Rebecca Holland	VMFC Club Welfare Officer	31/1/25	Rebeccaholland1@live.co.uk
James Lyon	VMFC Club Secretary	31/1/25	secretary@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk
Jonathon Waring	VMFC Chairman	31/1/25	Jon.waring@vauxhallmotorsfc.co.uk

End Note

Clubs are advised to undertake regular risk assessments of the club activities, ensuring that each one is named, signed and dated by those completing and approving it. Risk assessments are 'living documents' and should be updated and reviewed regularly and kept in active use to mitigate any new or changing risks. Clubs should undertake specific employee/volunteer risk assessments for anyone undertaking high-risk roles or tasks.