

Welfare Officer or Officers

A supportive and positive environment in which children and adults can enjoy athletics safely is vital. You'll provide leadership in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults within the club and act as a key point of contact for anyone needing to support or guidance. You will also need to maintain relationships with the Welsh Athletics Welfare Team at national and regional level. You will report to the club committee and work closely with the club *team managers* and the club *coaching coordinator*. Every three years you will have to undertake an appropriate safeguarding course and complete a DBS check. In larger clubs it is recommended that this role is carried out by two people, one male and one female.

Ideally, you'll need to be:

- Empathetic and most importantly approachable;
- Objective but understanding;
- Attentive to detail;
- Resilient and determined;
- Rational and not quick to jump to conclusions;
- Have knowledge of Safeguarding and Welfare either in a professional or voluntary capacity.

Training and Support

As a Welfare Officer you will need to:

- Complete a DBS Check
- Attend Safeguarding awareness training, you may have already received training through your profession or previous voluntary experience, Welsh Athletics currently offers the Sport Coach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children, and the EDUCARE Child Protection Awareness in Sport and Active Leisure
- Attend a Welsh Athletics Club Welfare Officer Course, CPSU - Time to Listen Course

The Training will provide you with the support and tools you need to carry out your role in the club combined with the resources available on the Welsh Athletics and UKA website.

What you will do:

- Implement the Athletics Welfare Policy and Procedures in conjunction with UKA and Welsh Athletics policy;
- Make sure everyone understands the UKA or Welsh Athletics Accredited Clubs *Codes of Conduct*;
- Be visible and approachable to all club members and post your contact details on club notice boards, the club website, in your club welcome pack and in newsletters;
- Develop a system to ensure all individuals working with young people undertake a DBS application every three years;
- Co-ordinate training for club personnel working with young people (i.e. *Safeguarding and Protecting Young People*) – where appropriate;
- Ensure that all safeguarding issues and incidents are reported promptly to Welsh Athletics;
- Ensure all parents of new young athletes receive the clubs child protection policy;



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How much time will it take?

This role in most cases takes up very limited time, it's important that as a *Welfare Officer* you are seen at the club and people know who you are. Where issues arise it is important that you can give it your full attention, this may take up further time –but hopefully this is very rare (if at all).

What you'll get out of it:

It's no exaggeration to say that children are the future of athletics, so your role in safeguarding them within your club is crucial. This is a highly respected role within the club and the local community, from which you'll get a great deal of satisfaction seeing how young athletes and the club develops.

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