



Listening Club

Kerry Simmons - Safeguarding Manager

Listening to Children

- Why do it
- Who should do it?
- What does this mean?
- When should it be done?
- What do we do with the findings?

What does it mean to listen to children?

- Seeking their views on their experiences
- At the club and at away games
- Actively engaging with your players
- Responding to what they tell you

Why listen to children?

- Children come to play rugby league in a fun and safe environment
- They want to be able to say if something isn't right or if something is worrying them
- We want children to come and to stay at the club
- We want them to be safe and to feel safe

Are children actively involved in club decision making?

- Using Harts Ladder of participation, what 'rung' would you use to describe young peoples involvement in your club?
- Rung 8 Young people and adults share the decision making
- Rung 7 Young people lead and initiate action
- Rung 6 Adult initiated, shared with children
- Rung 5 Young people are consulted and informed
- Rung 4 Young people are assigned and informed
- Rung 3 Young people are tokenised
- Rung 2 Young people are decoration
- Rung 1 Young people are manipulated

Help children climb the ladder

- Did any club say that children were above rung 4?
- If so, they play an active part in committee meetings?
- Are consulted on all planned changes in the club that involve them?

How do we know that children are happy?

- How can we tell if our players are happy?
- Results?
- Attendance?
- Behaviour?
- How do we know that they feel safe and able to report worries and concerns?

Cont:

*Let's ask them
Take part in the*



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Who should ask children their views on their experiences?

- The Club Welfare Officer is best placed to do this
- They are independent of the teams
- They are a CWO and understand the need to listen to children

Cont:

- A CWO will be less biased
- More approachable
- Encouraging and supportive
- Known to the players as the person to go to
- A part of the CWOs role is to represent children

How do we listen to children?

- In a way that can be recorded and shared within the club and acted upon
- By having regular meetings with representatives from all ages
- Letting the children lead the agenda wherever possible

Cont:

- Using open questions that enable children to have their say
- Encourage children to be open and honest of how they view the club and their experience
- Creating a safe environment – names won't be shared etc.

Questions to ask

- What do you like about the club?
- Is there anything we could improve? If so, how?
- What do you enjoy about training?
- What do you enjoy most about playing?
- Is there anything that could make training/playing better for you?

Questions to ask

- Does anything worry or concern you when you are in the club or playing rugby league?
- Do you have any ideas for improving anything in the club?
- Your team?

What to do with findings

- Share with committee
- Plan how to address any issues/ideas raised
- Send a summary of your findings to the Safeguarding Team and identify how you are addressing any issues/ideas raised

How Safeguarding can help you

- If you need any help or guidance to run a session – contact Kerry Simmons
- If any concerns are raised and you are in doubt as to whether you should report it or not, contact the Safeguarding Team for advice
- If you do not get support from your committee, contact Kerry Simmons and we can work with you to achieve this

Summary

- If we want children to report concerns to us they need to feel safe
- Children feel safe when they are listened to
- When they 'see' they have been listened to – the actions that follow

Cont:

- Let children, their parents and potential players know that you listen and respond to the views of young people
- Be proactive and demonstrate that you are taking part in the



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Certificate

When your club has demonstrated that it listens to children and acts on what they say, you will receive a framed certificate