



CHESTER FOOTBALL CLUB AND CHESTER FC COMMUNITY TRUST

Whistleblowing Policy

Implementation Date:	1 ST May 2024
Agreed By:	The Board of City Fans United and the Board of Chester FC Community Trust
Reviewed	January 2026
Next Review Date:	January 2028

Purpose:



THE
**NATIONAL
LEAGUE**
EST. 1978



**ISTHMIAN
LEAGUE**



**NORTHERN
PREMIER
LEAGUE**



SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Chester Football Club (the Club) and Chester FC Community Trust (the Trust) is committed to conducting all business in a professional and ethical way and we expect all staff and volunteers to maintain the same high standards. The Club and the Trust is committed to developing a culture where it is safe and acceptable for all involved in activities across the Club and the Trust to raise concerns about any unacceptable practice, behaviour, wrongdoing or misconduct. The purpose of this policy is to make clear that Club staff and Trust staff can whistleblow without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. This policy is intended to encourage and enable everyone to raise serious concerns directly to the Club or Trust. We do not want staff to overlook a problem or seek a resolution outside of the Club or Trust without first bringing the matter to our attention.

Statement:

The Club and the Trust understand that occasionally things go wrong, if they do go wrong then we ask you to tell us. Whistleblowing concerns misconduct, illegal or underhand practices by individuals and by an organisation; and, in as far as safeguarding goes, about the way care and support is being provided, such as practices that cause harm, or the risk of harm to others, or are abusive, discriminatory or exploitative.

What is Whistleblowing?:

Whistleblowing in a safeguarding context means revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation, or with an independent structure associated with it.

It can be used as an early warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken. This approach or policy is adopted in many different walks of life.

Any adult or young person with concerns about colleagues conduct towards a child, young person or adult at risk can also use whistleblowing by contacting the people and organisation as listed below.

The law provides protection for those who raise legitimate concerns about specified matters, known as qualifying disclosures. A qualifying disclosure is one made in the public interest if an employee has a reasonable belief that one of the following has taken place:

- fraud and/or money laundering;
- a bribe, offered or received;
- a criminal offence;
- a miscarriage of justice;
- an act creating risk to health and safety;

- an act causing damage to the environment;
- breach of any laws, regulations, other legal obligations or FA policies or procedures; or
- other serious risk that threatens clients, colleagues, the public, the environment, or the FA's reputation; and
- concealment of any of the above;
- is being, has been, or is likely to be committed. It is not necessary for you to have proof that such an act is being, has been, or is likely to be, committed - a reasonable belief is sufficient. **Please be aware that you have no responsibility for investigating the matter as it is The FA's responsibility to ensure that an investigation takes place.**

If you have reported a safeguarding concern about a child or an adult at risk and feel that it has not been dealt with correctly. Then there are a number of organisations you can and should escalate your concern to. This is the same if you wish to raise a concern around the behaviour or actions of someone which could lead to potential repercussions against you within your club environment. This whistleblowing policy affords you the chance to get the correct outcome without the risk of it coming back on you from within the club.

Reporting a concern, useful contacts:

Club Welfare Officer: Jane Phillipson
Contact number: 01244 371376
Email: jane.phillipson@chesterfc.com

Assistant Welfare Officer (Community): Sue Pearson
Contact number: 07308477055
Email: community@chesterfc.com

National League DSO: Martyn Cannon
Contact number: 07842 429798 **Email:** Safeguarding@thenationalleague.org.uk
County FA Safeguarding Manager: **FA Safeguarding Team**

Contact number: 01606 871166 **Contact number:** 0800
 169 1863
Email Address: Safeguarding@cheshirefa.com
Email Address: Safeguarding@theFA.com

The NSPCC

0800 800 5000

Help@nspcc.org.uk