

Supporting parents to choose a club

It is the right of any parent or carer to check how well a club is run, for the sake of their child's safety and their own peace of mind. Here is some guidance and questions parents could ask:

- Are staff and volunteers **appropriately qualified** and suitable to work with children?
- Does the organisation have a **child protection policy**?
- If you or your child has any worries, **who can you talk to**?
- Does the organisation have a written **code of behaviour/conduct**?
- What about **arrangements for away fixtures** and other events?
- What **training** has been provided for staff and volunteers?
- Does the club have a clear **health and safety** policy?
- Would they be able to **contact me** in an emergency?

A well-run club will welcome questions about their activities and policies. They will know they have a responsibility to give this kind of information to anyone who leaves a child in their care.

Sport England's Clubmark is a cross-sport accreditation scheme for community sports clubs. An accredited club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages, as well as helping parents and carers know that they're choosing the right club for their young people.

If you are asked to host, work with, or promote a local club, or want to signpost parents to local clubs, Clubmark can be the first port of call for identifying their suitability.

If a club does not have Clubmark, the questions listed can still be used provide assurances.

www.kentsport.org/safesport/

www.kentsport.org/clubmark/

(Guidance taken from KCC Safeguarding Team 09.2016)