

AGM 2019 County Safeguarding Officer Report

This year has been a very positive one for Devon in terms of moving forward with Safeguarding.

Many of our clubs have now been audited by Stuart Parsons from the LTA, most have achieved really well and those who haven't, have been supported to improve so that they can achieve Minimum Standards. It has been a privilege for me to work with many clubs across Devon to achieve this. Feedback has been very positive towards these club audits/reviews.

Some of you will be aware that Devon agreed to be a pilot for the new County audits which will take place next year. Our audit took place in November Our working group have worked really hard to update and produce new policies where required and in particular we have re-vamped all our County Cup and County training guidelines and are trialling a new project using DBS checked parents for trips to keep some of our costs down. Will, Debbie and I also met with all the county coaches involved and after guiding them through all the new paperwork I led some scenarios with them re safeguarding which led to some really good discussions. They all had to bring all their documents to this meeting to comply with our new encrypted registers that have been set up by Debbie (DBS, coach accreditation, driving licence, MOT, Business Insurance etc)

Following the audit which was extremely positive, we were asked to provide Matt Lea (National Safeguarding Manager) with copies of our newly written policies and templates as they would like to use them as examples of good practice for other counties who are struggling with this.

A survey was also sent out to anyone involved in Devon Tennis re safeguarding, again very good feedback was received but also ideas of ways we can improve which will go into our action plan for 2020

7 Members of the Management team were also able to attend the training by the LTA held in September and feedback suggested that Devon were very committed to everything and very enthusiastic!

I have also spent time supporting clubs who have concerns and liaising with LTA in order to move forwards

I am very lucky to work with an amazing Management Team in Devon who only want the best for Devon in every way and safeguarding is certainly top of that agenda.

Marian Vinall

County Safeguarding Officer