



The NWG Network and South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP) are delighted to announce the launch of the Safe to Play campaign. This campaign, funded by Sport England, has been developed to help improve the safety of children playing sport, participating in dance or drama and other activities that children access outside of school.

Safeguarding in sport has featured prominently in the national media recently with the BBC documentary “Football’s Darkest Secrets” being screened nationally following the publication of the Sheldon Inquiry into abuse within English and Welsh football.

<https://www.thefa.com/news/2021/mar/17/clive-sheldon-qc-independent-commission-report-released-20210317>

This follows the inquiry by Anne Whyte QC into allegations of abuse in gymnastics that is currently taking place following significant allegations by both high-profile gymnasts and children participating in the sport at local clubs. Safeguarding in sport also featured in the finding of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) that is currently being led by Professor Alexis Jay.

These inquiries highlight the need for a better understanding of how children can be abused in sport and we must not forget activities such as dance and drama with recent convictions being secured by the Police following investigations into the conduct of teachers in these settings.

To help parents and coaches understand their roles in keeping children safe NWG have developed a resource utilising augmented reality technology via mobile phones and tablets to help deliver important information that will empower parents to ask the important questions before they let their children attend activities. The resource will also enlighten coaches and teachers about developing safer environments where their activities take place.

The credit card sized resources will be distributed across South Tyneside by the STSCAP to sports clubs and providers. Follow up meetings will be held later during the year hosted by the NWG Networks safeguarding in sport team to review the progress of the campaign and to engage with providers and parents in order to fully evaluate the Safe to Play campaign messages.

Let’s join the campaign and make sport Safe to Play in South Tyneside.

