



Safeguarding Lead

Contract: Volunteer Role (Flexible)

Location: Devon, Cornwall & Somerset (supporting Football Development Programmes)

Apply Now: saintssouthwest.co.uk/vacancies-and-recruitment

About the Role

Saints Southwest is the largest Football Development & Education organisation in the South West, delivering high-quality Education, Community, and Football Development programmes across Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset.

We are proud of our professional, inclusive, and child-centred approach, working with schools, communities, and grassroots players to inspire participation, develop potential, and make a positive impact.

We are now seeking a committed and knowledgeable Volunteer Safeguarding Lead to support and strengthen safeguarding practices across our Football Development programmes, ensuring full alignment with FA safeguarding standards and best practice.

Role Purpose

The Volunteer Safeguarding Lead will play a critical role in ensuring that all Saints Southwest Football Development environments are safe, inclusive, and compliant with safeguarding standards.

The role will provide guidance, oversight, and support to staff, players, and parents, ensuring that safeguarding is embedded across all programmes. This includes acting as a key point of contact for safeguarding concerns and supporting the implementation of FA safeguarding policies and procedures.

What You'll Be Doing

- Act as the **designated safeguarding lead** for Saints Southwest Football Development programmes.
- Ensure all safeguarding practices align with **FA safeguarding policies and procedures**.
- Support coaches and staff in understanding and applying safeguarding responsibilities.
- Act as the **first point of contact** for safeguarding concerns, reporting and escalating appropriately. Maintain accurate and confidential safeguarding records in line with GDPR and FA guidance.
- Work closely with the Management Team to ensure safeguarding is consistently implemented across all programmes.
- Support the safer recruitment process, including DBS compliance and safeguarding checks.
- Promote a positive safeguarding culture where the welfare of children is always the priority.
- Attend relevant safeguarding training and ensure ongoing compliance with FA requirements. Liaise with external agencies where required, following correct reporting procedures



Essential Criteria

- Strong understanding of **safeguarding and child protection principles**.
- Experience working with children in a **sport, education, or community setting**.
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to handle sensitive information with **confidentiality and professionalism**.
Commitment to creating safe, inclusive environments for children and young people.
- Willingness to complete and maintain **FA Safeguarding Children certification**.
- Enhanced DBS check (or willingness to obtain).

Bonus if you also have:

- Previous experience as a **Safeguarding Officer or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.
- FA Safeguarding Children qualification (in date).
- Knowledge of FA reporting systems and safeguarding structures.
- Experience supporting staff with safeguarding concerns and processes.
- Background in football, sport, education, or youth work.

What You'll Get

We believe our people are our biggest strength. In return for your commitment, you'll receive:

- **Expenses:** Paid travel
- **Kit:** Full bespoke Saints Southwest uniform
- **Health & Wellbeing:**
 - Free 24/7 access to **Health Assured** wellbeing platform
 - Full access to the **EAP (Employee Assistance Programme)** – includes counselling, legal, and financial support
 - Free access to professional counsellors
- **Perks & Benefits:** Access to our exclusive employee perks platform
- **Development:** Ongoing CPD and support to keep growing in your role

Our Culture

At **Saints Southwest**, we do things properly. Our values guide everything we do:

- **Standards** – We set the bar high and hold ourselves accountable
- **Aspirations** – We aim high and never stop improving
- **Integrity** – We do what's right, not what's easy
- **New Thinking** – We innovate, adapt and overcome
- **Together** – We're one team, working for each other and our communities
- **Skills** – We develop people, not just players



Safeguarding sits at the heart of everything we do. Every decision we make is built around creating safe, supportive environments where young people can thrive.

Apply Now

www.saintssouthwest.co.uk/vacancies-and-recruitment

Let's grow, raise the standards, and help young people thrive, together.