

# Setting the Context

Safeguarding children in and through sport:  
*yesterday, today and tomorrow*

Anne Tiivas CPSU

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Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

# Yesterday

- No clear value base and principles
- Children's voices ignored
- Denial, avoidance, hostility towards pioneers / whistleblowers
- Risk avoidance approach to high profile cases of abuse in sport
- Action in silos - not working together in sport or with statutory sector

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# Yesterday - changes

- Research and evidence base
- Training developed – focus on coaches
- Impact of high profile cases leads to coherent action
- Voluntary sector role in safeguarding children recognised
- Sport England, Sport NI and NSPCC collaborate to create CPSU 2001
- Action Plan

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# Today

- Focus on quality of children's experience of sport
- Standards frameworks UK wide – supported by all sports councils
- Training for designated persons, management teams, officials and young people – still not enough
- Research validates previous concerns and highlights areas for action
- Greater collaboration across sport and with statutory sector
- Work to safeguard children valued from IOC to grass roots sport
- International profile of preventing violence against children in sport

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# Call to Action 2010 - 2015

- Strategy
- Awareness and communications
- Research and Evidence
- Integration
- Skills and Knowledge
- Post standards framework
- Case management project
- Involving children and young people

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# Call to Action achievements

- Structure for co-ordinating policy, evidence and practice
- Communications plans
- Theme work on safeguarding deaf and disabled children
- Research and sports working together on post standards framework
- Model of best practice for case management almost completed
- Evidence base for improving practice supported by learning opportunities
- Involvement of children and young people
- Network of safeguarding champions

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# Tomorrow

- Call to Action objectives met by 2015
- Respond to research and evidence findings
- Raise awareness and take action re children with particular vulnerability to abuse
- Address learning gaps - coaching children curriculum fully developed and embedded
- Olympics, Paralympics, Special Olympics, Commonwealth Games – safeguarding legacy

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# Key messages

## Children and young people can only be safeguarded in sport if:

- We all work together
- Children's voices are heard
- There is continued commitment to improving the quality of children's sport
- We invest in evidence based practice - learning from mistakes and successes
- Volunteers are properly supported
- We support each other to challenge poor practice and tackle abuse

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# Thank you



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