

Safeguarding in Sport: “Raising the Bar” – from abuse to action.

A Conference led by

The Sport England Advisory Panel

12th March 2019

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, Queen Elizabeth
Olympic Park, London, E20 3AD

Room: The Champions Suite



Edge Hill University

Safeguarding in Sport: *"Raising the Bar"* – from abuse to action.

Programme

09.30 – 10.00		Registration with Tea / Coffee
10.00 – 10.10	Dr Mike Hartill (Edge Hill University)	Welcome
10.10 – 10.20	Colin Harris (Advisory Panel)	Introduction: Development of the Panel
10.25 – 10.50	Karen Leach (Advisory Panel)	The Bigger Picture of Abuse Different ways to communicate.
10.55 – 11.20	Henrietta Rothman (Advisory Panel)	The Importance of Acknowledgement and Apology in the Recovery Process
11.20 – 11.40		Break
11.40 – 12.00	David Humphrey (The Lawn Tennis Association)	Case Study - LTA Cultural Change and Working with the Advisory Panel
12.05 – 12.30	Tom (Advisory Panel)	Mental Health and Sexual Abuse; Legacy Issues and the Impact of Therapy
12.35 – 13.00	Colin Harris (Advisory Panel)	How organisations engage with 'survivors': A personal view
13.00 – 13.40		Lunch
13.40 – 13.55	Kevin Murphy (NWG Network)	Working Together to Safeguard Children in 2018: Support for Grassroots Clubs
14.00 – 14.25	Ian Ackley (Advisory Panel)	Raising the Bar in Safeguarding
14.30 – 14.45	Jayne Molyneux Sport England	Sport England's Vision for Safeguarding
14.50 – 16.00	Discussion / Q & A with Panel (with refreshments)	Future Developments and Collaboration Closing Comments (Dr Mike Hartill)
16.00 – 16.45	Networking	

The Sport England Advisory Panel:

The VOICE project ran from January 2016 to May 2018. This project included research interviews with individuals who had been affected by sexual violence in a sport setting. The project also included 'Acknowledgement Forums' in each of the partner countries. These events offered a platform for participants of the project to go beyond the anonymous research interview and engage directly with professionals within the sport sector. With the support of NWG Network and UK Coaching, the UK forum took place in Nottingham in June 2017 with an audience of approximately 35 invited delegates. During the forum, delegates heard first-hand, personal accounts from individuals who had experienced child sexual abuse within a sports setting in the UK.

Following this event, Sport England extended an invitation to the speakers and organisers of the VOICE Forum with a view to discussing how they might respond to some of the issues raised by the speakers. The outcome of this meeting was the establishment of the Advisory Panel which was to be populated principally by individuals who had experienced sexual violence within a sport setting. The Panel is chaired by Sheila Taylor MBE, director of the NWG Network and currently has eight members. The inaugural meeting was held on 5th March 2018 and the panel hosted their first event at Edge Hill University, funded by Sport England, in January 2019. Today's event, also funded by Sport England, is the second public event to be staged by the Panel members.

Colin Harris



Colin Harris is an academic and has held both research and teaching roles at the universities of Brighton and Sussex.

Colin played for Chelsea FC in the early 1970s. In November 2016 he disclosed that during his time at Chelsea he was sexually abused by his coach. Since then he has spoken to multiple organisations with the intention of trying to drive some positive changes that would help those who have been affected by past abuses within sport, and also to affect changes that will positively benefit those currently in and moving into sport.

Much of Colin's work has been with the EU funded VOICE project which aims to develop awareness of abuse in sport by using the voices and experiences of those who have been affected by sexual exploitation.



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Karen Leach

As a child, Karen was recognized as a talented swimmer with strong aspirations and a realistic chance of representing Ireland at the Olympic Games. Between the ages of 10 and 17, Karen spent endless hours in the swimming pool. During this time, Karen was routinely abused by her coach.

Since the publication of her story in the book *Deep Deception, Irelands Swimming Scandals* Karen has been speaking out and advocating on behalf of children and young people. She spoke at the first ever Olympism in Action forum (Buenos Aires, 2018), and assisted the International Olympic Committee in educating athletes and entourage members about this important topic. She is working to create a greater level of awareness and to encourage safer spaces for children and young people in sport, working regularly with national and international organizations both in advisory and public speaking capacities.

Karen is also an accredited psychotherapist. Through this avenue she has been able to help and support others, including those who have suffered abuse.



Henrietta Rothman



Henrietta Rothman is married with five children and a Beagle. She moved to France when she was 18. She plays the saxophone and the piano, and enjoys cooking, music and walking by the lake. She teaches English and sells cards.

When she was 7, she was sexually abused in a tennis club in London. Following this experience, and the difficulties that developed in her life as a result, she would like to be able to help others and promote awareness and understanding, both in the UK and in France.

She participated in the VOICE project and is currently part of the Sport England Advisory Panel.



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Tom

Tom is a Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner in an IAPT organisation that provides initial assessments and therapy sessions to clients. This work adopts a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy approach.

Prior to working as a Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, he qualified as a Person-Centred Counselling Psychotherapist.

He is a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. He is also a member of the British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies.

Ian Ackley



Ian first disclosed about his abuse by paedophile football coach Barry Bennell in 1994 by giving a supporting statement to the American police which led to the first successful prosecution of him. Ian also gave the initial statement at the start of the UK investigation of Barry Bennell. After struggling to receive support for his statement, Ian contributed to a TV documentary by Dispatches called 'Soccer's Foul Play' (1997).

Although the documentary was successful in encouraging others to come forward and led to a second successful conviction, the authorities and relevant organisations did not acknowledge that there might be further causes for concern. One journalist wrote that it was 'scaremongeringly unhelpful' to suggest that this was anything other than an isolated incident and to suggest otherwise was wreck less and dangerous on the part of Dispatches. Twenty years of darkness followed, until November 2016 when former footballers came forwards in their droves to reveal what we had known for a very long time.

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Ian found himself ill prepared for this to resurface and the impact has been significant. However, after meeting David White, Paul Stewart and Derek Bell, Ian's enthusiasm was renewed, and they worked together to create an organisation that would be a part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. That was nearly two years ago and today SAVE Association strives to support victims and survivors through engaging in various forms as well as raising the bar in safeguarding.

Guest Speakers:

Jayne Molyneux, Sport England



Jayne has worked for Sport England since 2009 and is responsible for leading their work with children and young people and safeguarding. Jayne initially trained as a secondary Physical Education teacher and has significant experience in the sport and education sectors having worked for several local authorities in the North West of England, where she still lives. She also worked for the Youth Sport Trust for five years as National Development Manager and until recently was a Chair of Governors of a secondary school

A former international rugby union player, Jayne has also coached England Students but now enjoys walking and cycling in her spare time.

David Humphrey, Lawn Tennis Association

David joined the Metropolitan police in 2002 moving into a Detective role and eventually leading Child Abuse Investigation Teams across South London.

In 2015, David took over as Detective Chief Inspector in charge of West London's Child Abuse Investigation Teams, handling upwards of 1000 investigations during that period. In 2016, David was selected to join Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary where he inspected police and social care departments nationally on their safeguarding arrangements. Many of those reports made national news and led to changes in leadership and process.

In June 2017, David joined the Lawn Tennis Association as their Head of Safeguarding, implementing a new safeguarding strategy which has seen the implementation of minimum standards across over 2600 venues.



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Kevin Murphy, NWG Network

Kevin has worked within the Children's workforce in a variety of roles and is a former Local Authority Head of Service managing locality based multi-agency teams for an age range between 0-18, he was also the strategic lead for missing children and chaired the monthly missing children MARAC. He has also worked closely with Derbyshire Constabulary on two major CSE criminal investigations and has experience in supporting victims and their families throughout CSE criminal investigations and court processes.



Kevin has a wealth of knowledge in the field of CSE and working with vulnerable children and their families, he has a unique perspective and understanding of special educational needs and Autism. Kevin is now the Safeguarding in Sport lead for the CSE Response Unit working to raise awareness of CSE with grass roots sports clubs and leisure centre providers.

Dr Mike Hartill, Edge Hill University



Mike Hartill is Reader in the Sociology of Sport. Since joining Edge Hill, Mike has conducted research into child abuse in sport and has worked on a number of projects aimed at preventing abuse and sexual exploitation of children in sport. He has been particularly influential in highlighting the sexual abuse of boys within sports contexts as well as conducting some of the earliest research into child protection and safeguarding policy within sport. His recent research – *'Voices for Truth & Dignity'* – focused on the perspectives of those with lived experience ('survivors') of sexual abuse in sport.

Mike has worked with a wide range of organisations such as the Rugby Football League, Street Games, Sport England, the NSPCC, the Child Protection in Sport Unit, the NWG Network, ENGSO Youth, the German Sports Council, and the Austrian Sports Council.

In December 2016, Mike was invited to provide expertise on child protection in sport for the English *Football Association's* independent review into allegations of child sexual abuse in football, led by Clive Sheldon QC.



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Thank you for supporting the conference
led by the Sport England Advisory Panel.

If you would like to contact the panel,
please email

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