

## **Our Progress: 2008 – 2015**

### **Correction to case study from page 16/17**

#### Safeguarding in Sport

This example illustrates how young people were supported to have their voices and concerns heard, whilst also dealing with a number of agencies and organisations' varying approaches to safeguarding and engaging with children and young people.

The advice and support service was contacted by an athletics coach who felt he and a group of children had been unfairly treated by their club and the club chairman. The coach alleged bullying and racial discrimination by the club that led to him and the group of young people he coached being asked to leave the club. The coach had contacted the relevant governing bodies and a leading children's charity but the coach alleged that nothing had been done by these organisations to resolve the situation.

We were advised that the young people felt ignored and not listened to in the process. Arrangements were made to meet with the group of young people and to listen to their concerns about what had happened at the club and with their coach, and to find out from them what they wanted to do about the situation.

However as part of our initial enquiries into the issue that had been raised with us we became aware of other agencies involved with the coach, including a Local Safeguarding Children's Board Officer from a local authority who provided us with information about a number of concerns that were on-going in respect of this coach.

As a result of the safeguarding concerns reported to us, which included inappropriate coaching techniques, the inappropriate use of power drinks, use of a false ID and false representations regarding qualifications as a coach, one of our Investigation and Advice officers facilitated a meeting between the governing bodies, the leading children's charity concerned and the local safeguarding officer.

The local authority's social services department had been dealing with the safeguarding allegations but it seemed from initial enquiries there had been no multi agency meeting to share intelligence and no-one appeared to be listening to or explaining to the young people what was going on. We had become aware of a number of different concerns that had not been shared. The meeting was arranged to take forward the young people's complaints and to share safeguarding information regarding the coach.

Following the joint meeting our office facilitated a meeting with the children who had complained to our office to explain to them what had happened and how their complaints were handled. The meeting took place at our office in Colwyn Bay and following a lengthy discussion where the young people had the opportunity to have all their questions answered the children were happy that they had been listened to. The governing bodies confirmed that the meeting had been helpful and positive and had changed their views about how as organisations they should be listening and engaging with children and young people in the future.