**Child Protection Policy Statement**

Northwood FC (“the club”) recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people (defined as any person under the age of 18) involved in football which it organises or which it supervises and is committed to working to provide them with a safe environment. The club subscribes to The Football Association’s Child Protection Best Practise Policy and Procedures, Safeguarding Children and Young People in Football (Revised Edition 2006) and endorse and adapt the Policy Statement contained in that document namely:-

*“Every child or young person, defined as any person under the age of 18, who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and should be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football. The FA recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The FA is, therefore, committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children and young people to participate in the sport to the best of their abilities so long as they choose to do so.”*

Key Principles

The key principles of this Safeguarding Children Policy and that of the FA are that:-

* The child’s welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
* All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
* All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential