

## How to manage allegations of non-recent abuse:

It is possible that allegations of abuse can be made a number of years after the actual incident. This may be because of a change in circumstances for either the survivor or the alleged perpetrator.

Any non-recent allegations must follow the England Netball's safeguarding procedures. Please report the allegation to England Netball Safeguarding Team at: [besafe@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:besafe@englandnetball.co.uk).

If there are grounds for concern then statutory authorities must be informed (Police or your Local Authority Designated Officer by contacting Children's Services if appropriate).

If someone discloses to you, the following points should also be considered:

- Clearly establish with the adult complainant if there may be any children currently at risk of harm from the person they are saying abused them as a child.
  - \* Advise the person making the complaint that they should inform the Police.
  - \* Encourage them to do so while acknowledging the brave steps they have already taken in beginning to talk about their experience as a child.
  - \* It is important that the person knows that there is a likelihood that an abuser will not have stopped abusing after their individual abuse ended and if the person harmed them they could be continuing to cause harm to others.
  - \* This needs to be done without reinforcing the inappropriate guilt the survivor may already have for not coming forward earlier.
- If the complainant refuses to talk to the statutory authorities but has provided you with enough identifying factors then this information should be shared with the police. This breach of the complainants' confidence is only appropriate if there is any potential that the alleged perpetrator is still a risk to children or could face prosecution (i.e. they are alive). Remember, the welfare of any children currently at risk is paramount. This should take priority over any request of confidentiality from the person providing you with the information/complaint. This should be explained to them at the earliest possible stage
- Offer support to the complainant when making a formal complaint to the police.
- Signpost the complainant to support agencies that can provide counselling for example <https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/deal-with-a-concern#who-can-support-you>