

Friday 11th September 2009

CHILD WELFARE OFFICER STATEMENT: In response to media coverage regarding transporting children to and from club football matches.

As many of you are aware, there has been reports in the media today regarding the safeguarding of children in sporting organisations, with particular focus on the situation regarding those of you transporting children to and from club football games and training.

As much of this coverage appears to be of a negative nature and may be alarming to those of you currently sharing in the joys of the 'football run' I felt it would be useful to clarify the situation and put your minds at rest.

Consequently, I have spoken with Richard Drake - Child Protection Officer at the Hertfordshire Football Association, who has confirmed to me that parents and friends making informal and personal arrangements with each other (whether regular or otherwise) to give lifts to children **do not** have to be vetted under the vetting and barring scheme discussed in today's news coverage. When giving each other's children lifts in this way, **you are not at risk of being fined** and are in fact offering a crucial and much appreciated service to both your team and Gadeside Football Club as a whole.

However, your child's safety is of paramount importance and any volunteer working on behalf of Gadeside Football Club, who has frequent and intensive access to your children will have to be registered under the scheme and we as a club are working with the Hertfordshire FA to ensure that this is implemented.

I would urge any of you who are unsure or concerned to visit the Hertfordshire Football Association's website - www.hertfordshirefa.com - where you can find a statement clarifying the requirements of the vetting and barring scheme, released by the FA Equality and Child Protection Department today.

Lastly, please don't hesitate to contact me via the clubs website should you have any further worries or concerns. Thank you!

Annette Hunt

Child Welfare Officer.

