



National Development Strategy

Case Study - Safeguarding

'Safeguarding our clubs future' Project Cadishead Grange BC, Lancashire

Cadishead Grange Bowling Club recognised that before introducing youth activity, safeguarding had to be the first priority. The club wanted to increase youth participation within the local league, particularly as no other clubs were running junior sessions and several local clubs had closed. As a community-based club with over 100 years of history, members understood that creating safe opportunities for young people was essential to securing the club's long-term future.

The club began by reviewing safeguarding policies, completing DBS checks and ensuring volunteers and coaches had appropriate training. Working closely with safeguarding officers and qualified coaches helped the club understand the responsibilities involved in working with young people and gave volunteers confidence to deliver sessions safely.



Once safeguarding procedures were in place, the club introduced a summer holiday programme designed to provide fun, welcoming sessions and encourage children to try bowling. The programme ran for two hours each morning across five days, using skittles, old jacks, a parachute, a mini football goal and plenty of volunteer enthusiasm to keep sessions engaging and accessible.

The project quickly delivered positive results. During 2024 and 2025, the club saw regular weekly attendance from children. Four young players now represent Greater Manchester, and one player, aged 12, is already playing in the local league.

The success of the sessions led to new partnerships. A local Cubs group approached the club to support young people working towards an activity badge, and the club secured Sport England funding to purchase Bowls Buddies equipment for activity sessions and open days. These partnerships introduced more young people to the sport and strengthened community links.

“As a coach, I realised early on that safeguarding had to come first. Once volunteers felt confident and families trusted the environment, everything else – participation, partnerships and player development – started to fall into place.”
– Club Coach

The club now regularly welcomes around 12 children each week and continues to support Cubs and Scouts sessions. The club has also been invited to work with schools through the Salford Schools Partnership, including plans for a Bowls Festival in 2026. Delivering these sessions requires ongoing risk assessments and ensuring volunteers hold appropriate DBS checks and coaching qualifications, with volunteers continuing their development through Coach Bowls training.

The project has raised the club’s profile within the community. Cadishead Grange is now recognised by Salford Local Authority and Salford Leisure as a trusted provider of youth activity. Increased funding opportunities and growing participation have strengthened the club’s future sustainability.

The club encourages other bowling clubs to start by putting safeguarding in place, working closely with County Safeguarding Officers and learning from clubs already delivering youth activity. Continued investment in equipment, training and promotion has helped the club attract new participants and build confidence with each project.

BOWL TOGETHER

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ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Progressive skill activities focusing on balance, coordination and control
- ✓ Target-based games developing accuracy and decision-making
- ✓ Inclusive team challenges supporting communication and cooperation
- ✓ Mondays available • delivered on your school site
- ✓ Half-day, fully funded school sessions delivered during the summer term
- ✓ Limited to 8 Salford primary schools



National Development Strategy Want more details of this case study?

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