

## 2025/26 Child Welfare Officer's Report



I am pleased to say that we've had no child welfare referrals during the season, which is great. Sadly, it feels like that's where the good news ends.

This season has seen continued growth in the number of poor conduct reports. This has included both instances reported by our teams, but also reports made against our players, parents and coaches. Even more alarmingly, some of what has been reported has been extremely serious and we've also had reports from just about every age group. As adults, we should be setting an example to the children within the teams. Showing aggression, threats of violence and in some instances becoming violent is simply not ok or what we stand for as a club.

Worryingly there is also a tendency for issues to be referred to myself or the Management Committee relatively late on, often leaving us to find out about any issues from other teams or Clubs. This makes our lives all the more difficult in trying to manage them and, quite frankly, can make us look bad.

Everyone should be mindful of the Club and FA's code of conduct and, if not confident on challenging this at the time, be clear that this should be reported at the earliest opportunity via one of the appropriate channels.

Lastly, we have had a small number of teams be suspended in the year for coaches failing to renew their qualifications in time despite repeated chasers from both the FA and the Club. Fortunately, these were resolved quickly, but they serve as a warning - you risk your training and matches being suspended if you fail to act on time. I also understand that West Riding FA will be introducing new, mandatory, behavioural improvement plans for teams that regularly receive poor conduct scores from matches, so I urge you all to be on your best behaviour and set the example for everyone!

Many thanks,

Lucy Doherty  
Child Welfare Officer