

Safeguarding our younger members continues to be a priority for Cycling Ulster and the Executive are briefed on the matter at every meeting. A number of Child Protection Awareness Courses had been planned beginning in late February through March and April. Unfortunately, like so many other aspects of our organisation, restrictions meant that these courses could not take place. SportNI in collaboration with the NSPCC however began to offer online courses for clubs and individuals. I am pleased to report that several of our clubs took part in these online courses. Looking forward to 2021 it seems unlikely at this stage that we will be running any face to face courses and I would encourage clubs to check out the SportNI Website to see when the online courses are taking place.

Clubs continue to comply with good safeguarding practices by asking those members involved in youth activities to apply for an Access NI Vetting Check. A total of forty individuals have successfully received their certificates in 2020 with another 20 or so in the system. Many of those still in the system cannot be processed until they submit their ID Validation form to me. Without that I cannot move the application forward. Unfortunately if the application is awaiting action for three months it will automatically be removed from the system by AccessNI and the applicant will have to start again.

I continue to work with Donal Gillespie, the National Safeguarding Officer. Plans for all the provincial safeguarding officers to meet with Donal had to be shelved because of the on-going situation with Covid 19.

I would like to thank my fellow Executive members for their continued commitment and interest in all matters relating to Safeguarding and their support for me. I would also like to thank Julie Rea who is my co-signatory.

**Marian Lamb Lead Safeguarding Officer**