Cheshire Cricket Board

Our Player Pathway

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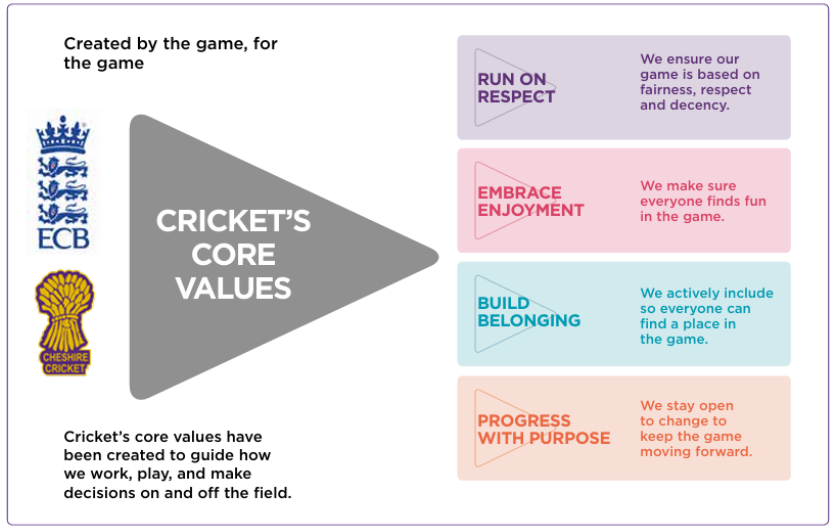
Introduction

Welcome to the Cheshire Cricket Board Player Pathway, an accessible and player-centred development programme that aims to instil a lifelong love of the game and support every child to reach their full cricketing potential.

In this document you will find further information about the opportunities for boys (see separate document for girls) and how our Player Pathway supports the development of recreational cricket throughout the county.

Our staff and volunteers embrace cricket's Core Values (see below) in everything we do. These values are embedded into our Player Pathway and help guide how we work, play and make decisions on and off the field.

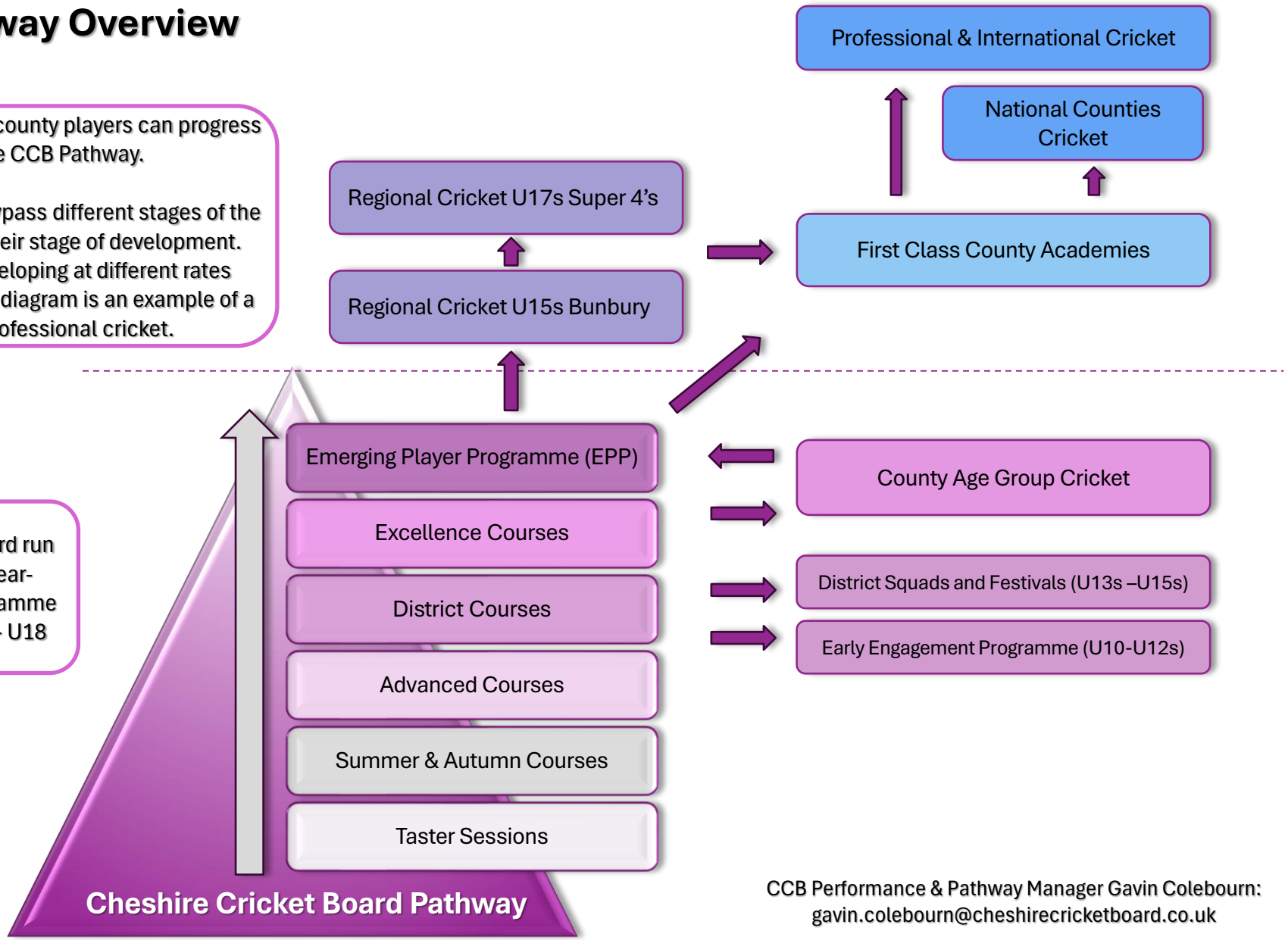


Pathway Overview

The highest achieving county players can progress beyond the CCB Pathway.

Children may join or bypass different stages of the pathway based on their stage of development. Due to children developing at different rates during maturation the diagram is an example of a pathway to professional cricket.

Cheshire Cricket Board run a comprehensive year-round coaching programme for children aged U9- U18



CCB Performance & Pathway Manager Gavin Colebourn:
gavin.colebourn@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

Pathway by Age Group

Club, School & Community Cricket (Recreational) →

Cheshire Cricket Board Pathway (Performance) →

16 -18+

- Senior Club Cricket
- U16-U18 Club Cricket
- U19s Club T20

- Advanced Courses
- U16 & U18 Excellence Courses

- County Squads
- Emerging Player Programme

- First Class Academies
- National Counties

13-15 year olds

- Senior Club Cricket
- U13-U15 Club Cricket
- Chance to Shine Street & School Coaching
- Knight-Stokes Cup
- MCC Hubs

- Hardball Summer Courses
- Advanced Courses
- U13 & U15 District Courses
- U13, U14, U15 Excellence Courses

- U13 & U15 District Festivals
- County Squads (U13,U14,U15) & Fixtures

11-13 year olds

- U11-U13 Club Cricket
- Chance to Shine
- MCC Hubs

- Summer & Autumn Courses
- Advanced Courses
- U11 & U13 District Courses
- Free Taster Sessions

- U11, U12 & U13 District Festivals
- U13 Excellence Course
- County squad (U13)

8–11year olds

- Dynamos Cricket
- Chance to Shine
- U9-U11 Club Cricket

- Summer & Autumn Courses
- Advanced Courses
- District Courses
- Free Taster Sessions

- U11s District Festival
- 'Best of District' Fixtures

5-8 year olds

- All Stars Cricket
- Chance to Shine
- 'Minis' Coaching

- Summer & Autumn Courses (8+)
- Free Taster Sessions (8+)

Early Engagement Programme

Entry Level → Pathway → Representative Cricket

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Entry Level Cricket

Allstars Cricket

Entry level programme for 5-8 year olds.
Find your local centre here:

Dynamos Cricket

For those leaving Allstars or new to the game. 8-11 year olds.
Find your local centre here:

CCB National Programmes Manager Owen Williamson:
owen.williamson@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

MCC Foundation

More information about MCC Hubs and local centres:

Chance to Shine

For more information about Chance to shine and Chance to Shine Street:

CCB Communities Manager Rehaan Rather:
rehaan.rather@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

CCB Schools Manager Mark Greaves :
mark.greaves@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

Free Taster Sessions

For children 8 + who are new to the CCB Pathway.
Find a session here:

Junior Club Cricket

More information on junior club cricket and leagues can be found here:

CCB Clubs Manager Gareth Moorhouse:
gareth.moorhouse@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

Pathway Schedule (8-13 year olds)

Autumn

Open to all children & abilities (8–13-year-olds)

4-6 week courses

Group coaching, softball games & nets (hard & softball)

Indoor venues across the county

District & Excellence

Invite only – Players nominated to this stage by CCB Coaches. 10-12 weeks programme

District Courses for U11s (school years 3-6) & U13s (years 7 & 8**)**

Excellence Course for U13s

At the conclusion of the course all children to be considered for selection for the District Festivals – U11s, U12s & U13s

U13 County Age Group squad to be selected

Summer

Open to all children & abilities (8–13-year-olds). 1-week courses (Mon-Fri)

Group coaching, softball games, competitions & nets (hard & softball)

Outdoor venues across the county

Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug

Advanced

Invite only – boys nominated by a club or CCB coach

10-12 week coaching programme

Courses for children aged 8-13

Group Coaching, athletic development, game-based learning and nets (hard ball)

District Festivals & County Fixtures

District Festivals at U11s, U12s & U13s

Four squads selected at each age group and compete across the summer in a multi-format festival

Best performers selected for 'best of' squads to play against other counties (U11 & U12). Highest achieving U13s can be moved to the County Age Group squad.

U13 County Age Group Squad to play in a comprehensive match programme across the summer

Free Taster Sessions across the year

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Pathway Schedule (14-18 year olds)

Autumn

Open to all children & abilities (14–16-year-olds)

4-6 week courses

Group coaching, softball games & nets (hardball)

Indoor venues across the county

District & Excellence

Invite only – Players nominated to this stage by CCB Coaches. 10-12 weeks programme

District Courses for U15 (school years 9&10)

At the conclusion of the course all children to be considered for selection for the U15 District Festival

Excellence Course for U14s, U15s, U16s & U18s

County Age Group squads to be selected for U14s, U15s, U16s & U18s

Summer

Hardball Courses for children (14-–15-year-olds).

1-week courses (Mon-Fri)

Group coaching, hardball games, competitions & nets (hardball)

Outdoor venues across the county

Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug

Advanced

Invite only – boys nominated by club or CCB coach.

10-12 week coaching programme

Courses for children aged 14-18

Group Coaching, athletic development, game-based learning and nets (hard ball)

Emerging Player Programme

Emerging Player Programme (EPP) sits at the top of the Pathway apex

High performing county players and those identified with the potential to excel (typically aged 13-16) are selected for the programme each year

District Festivals & County Fixtures

U15 District Festival

Four squads selected and compete across the summer in a multi-format festival

Highest achieving players can be moved to the County Age Group squad.

County Age Group Squads

U14, U15, U16 & U18 County Age Group Squads to play in a comprehensive match programme across the summer

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Pathway Frameworks

ENJOYMENT
CREATIVITY
SKILFUL
RESILIENCE
ADAPTABLE
RESPECT
DETERMINATION
ACCOUNTABLE

EMBRACE & BUILD

Embracing fun & excitement in the game

U8 - U13

PROGRESS

Understanding your game

U14 - U18
EPP & Academies

KNOW

Know your game

National County & Professional Cricket

An accessible and player-centred Talent Pathway that enables every child in Cheshire to play to their full potential and develop a lifelong love of the game

CHESHIRE CRICKET

EMBRACE & BUILD FRAMEWORK (U8 –U13)

	TECHNICAL	TACTICAL	MENTAL	PHYSICAL
BATTING	• BALANCED SET UP • ATTACK & DEFEND • EXECUTE SHOTS WITH VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL BAT	• WHEN TO ATTACK & DEFEND • SCORING OPTIONS, HITTING GAPS & BOUNDARY HITTING	• MANAGING FOCUS • DECISION MAKING • RESILIENCE	• AWARENESS OF S&C TO IMPROVE BATTING • EFFECTIVE RUNNING BETWEEN THE WICKETS
SEAM BOWLING	• GRIP & WRIST POSITION • SAFE & REPEATABLE ACTION • HEAD REMAINS LEVEL THROUGH ACTION	• FIELD SETTING • AWARENESS OF BATTERS STENGTHS & WEAKNESSES • SEAM AND SWING	• GOOD DECISION MAKING • RESILIENCE • POSITIVE MINDSET	• ABILITY TO JUMP AND LAND • BASIC RUNNING TECHNIQUE • CORE STRENGTH
SPIN BOWLING	• GENERATE SPIN • SAFE & REPEATABLE ACTION • STABLE BASE	• FIELD SETTING • AWARENESS OF BATTERS STENGTHS & WEAKNESSES • TYPES OF SPIN	• BOWL TO A PLAN • GOOD DECISIONS • RESILIENCE • POSITIVE MINDSET	• CORE STRENGTH • AWARENESS OF S&C TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE
FIELDING	• STABLE BASE & COORDINATED HANDS (CATCH) • ATTACK, INTERCEPT & THROW	• READ & ANTICIPATE BATTERS • ATTACK THE BALL & APPLY PRESSURE	• COMMITMENT • MANAGING FOCUS • WANT TO TAKE WICKETS	• SPEED • AGILITY • RUNNING, CHANGE OF DIRECTION, DIVING
WICKETKEEPING	• BIG CATCHING AREA • POSTURE IN SET UP • HANDS & FEET WORK TOGETHER	• STARTING POSITIONS STOOD UP & BACK • SUPPORTS CAPTAIN & BOWLER • ENERGY/ENTHUSIASM	• RESILIENCE • MANAGING FOCUS • RECOVER FROM MISTAKES	• STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY • FOOTWORK PATTERNS • AWARENESS OF S&C.

Access CCB's detailed framework here:

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PROGRESS FRAMEWORK (U14-U18, EPP & ACADEMY)

	TECHNICAL	TACTICAL	MENTAL	PHYSICAL
BATTING	• HEAD IN OPTIMAL POSITION • CONTROL BATPATH • BALANCE IN ATTACKING SHOTS • SCORE AGAINST SPIN – SWEEP &/OR USE FEET • DEFEND SHORT BALL	• TEMPO OF INNINGS • CAN CREATE ANGLES AND USE CREASE • UNDERSTAND BOWLER WEAKNESSES • MANIPULATE THE FIELD	• MANAGING FOCUS • RESILIENCE • SURVIVE AND THRIVE VS SHORT BOWLING • GOOD DECISION MAKING • POSITIVE MINDSET	• ENDURANCE • STRENGTH • SPEED • AWARENESS OF S&C
SEAM BOWLING	• STRONG BASE & CORE TO SUPPORT TALL ACTION • CONTROL STOCK BALL & VARIATIONS • DEVELOPED SEAM POSITION	• FIELD CHANGES • ABILITY TO ASSESS CONDITIONS & SURFACES • UNDERSTAND BATTERS STRENGTH & WEAKNESS	• BODY LANGUAGE • RESILIENCE • GOOD DECISION MAKING	• STRENGTH/ POWER • SPEED • ENDURANCE • AWARENESS OF S&C
SPIN BOWLING	• GRIPS & PRESENTS GOOD SEAM • BODY PARTS ALIGNED TO TARGET	• FIELD CHANGES • KNOWLEDGE OF PACE & DIFFERENT PITCHES/CONDITIONS • BATTERS STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES	• BODY LANGUAGE • RESILIENCE • GOOD DECISION MAKING	• STRENGTH/FLEXIBILITY • ENDURANCE • REPEATABILITY • AWARENESS OF S&C
FIELDING	• GOOD POSTURE & DYNAMIC BALANCE FOR CATCHING • POWER & WEIGHT TRANSFER WHEN THROWING • DIVING & STOPPING	• ABILITY TO READ THE GAME • CAN IMPACT THE GAME POSITIVELY BY SUPPORTING CAPTAIN & BOWLER	• MANAGING FOCUS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME • 'WANT THE BALL' ATTITUDE • RECOVER FROM MISTAKES • COMMITMENT • LEADERSHIP	• POWER • DIVING & THROWING RANGE • SPEED • MAINTAIN PERFORMANCE UNDER FATIQUE
WICKETKEEPING	• GOOD POSTURE IN SET UP & MAINTAINED THROUGH CATCH • SAFE CATCHING • DYNAMIC MOVEMENTS	• PREFERRED STARTING POSITIONS FOR BOWLER/ SURFACE/BATTER. • ANTICIPATION	• MANAGING FOCUS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME • PRE DELIVERY ROUTINE • RESILIENCE	• QUICK FEET & GOOD LATERAL MOEVEMENTS • FAST HANDS • ENDURANCE

Access CCB's detailed framework here:

CHESHIRE CRICKET

Talent Identification

Cheshire Cricket has an excellent record of developing talented individuals and teams, nurturing players who have gone on to achieve success at every level of the game. We're proud of our accessible pathway, ensuring every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of any barriers they may find in their way. With a wide talent pool and multiple entry points into the pathway, we provide opportunities for players of all abilities to develop and progress within a supportive and inclusive environment.

Development Framework	Children are assessed against our Development Framework by our team of experienced coaches. We take a holistic approach to coaching each child, observing their technical, tactical, mental and physical attributes.
Relative Age Effect & Physical Attributes	Coaches are aware of the relative age effect and will acknowledge which quarter of the year a child was born. We take this into consideration with all selections and make decisions based on future potential at that point in time. We also observe a child's physical data and general movement patterns. Players are monitored by CCB's Strength & Conditioning lead periodically.
Many Eyes – Many Times	Cheshire Cricket run a 30-week coaching programme staffed by experienced full-time level 2,3 & 4 coaches. We value each others' views and feedback on children we coach and decisions are made from observations made over a long period of time rather than a one-off viewing.
Work Ethic & Attitude	We are looking for children with a growth mindset and a willingness to learn and improve. We also take into consideration a child's attitude towards their own game, peers and coaches.
Match Play	We observe players during our district and representative fixtures during the summer. For the older juniors we will observe performances within senior club cricket.

Selection Policy Overview

Selection Policy

Our Pathway is designed to help young players enjoy, develop and fulfil their cricketing potential, whether that leads to county, regional, or even professional opportunities. Our selection process is intended to be clear, fair, and supportive, ensuring that every player feels valued throughout their journey. This policy explains how selection decisions are made and the qualities we consider when choosing junior representative teams.

Eligibility

CCB follows the ECB's eligibility rules for junior representative cricket. To be considered for selection, players will normally need a clear Cheshire link — such as living in the county, being born here, attending a Cheshire school, playing for a local club, or having represented Cheshire in the previous season. These criteria help ensure our teams reflect the county's cricket community and network. In exceptional cases, and only within ECB regulations, players without one of these links may still be considered with the appropriate approval.

Cheshire Cricket Board's Full Selection policy can be viewed HERE

CHESHIRE CRICKET

Professional Cricketers from our Player Pathway

George Balderson

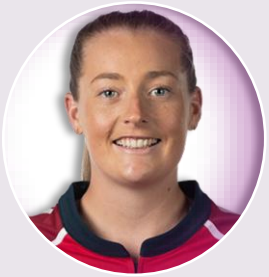
England U19s,
Lancashire

''My time with Cheshire was not only the most enjoyable of my childhood but also fundamental in helping me to become the cricketer I am today. The lessons I learnt about teamwork , leadership and all-round cricketing skills at a young age were essential. I can only say thankyou to the coaches who helped me at a young age to get to where I am today''

Chris Edwards

England LD Captain
CCB Coach

''Cheshire Cricket helped shape my game to become the player I am today. I learnt to believe in myself and that handwork, effort and determination pays off. Enjoy your cricket and embrace everything you learn on the courses''



Sophie Ecclestone

England, Lancashire,
Manchester Originals

''Playing club and county cricket in Cheshire played a huge part in my development and really sparked my love for the game''

Professional Cricketers from our Player Pathway

Joe Moores

England U19s & Lions, Lancashire

Charlie Barnard

England U19s, Lancashire

Rob Jones

England U19s, Lancashire, Worcestershire

Archie Vaughan

England U19s, Somerset

Tilly Kesteven

Lancashire

Ben Gibbon

Worcestershire

Disability Pathway

Cricket is a game for everyone. If you have a child with a disability, please get in touch to discuss the opportunities within our club, community and Talent Pathways.

CCB Disability Manager Owen Williamson:
owen.williamson@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

CCB Disability Coach Chris Edwards:
chris.edwards@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

CHESHIRE CRICKET

Safeguarding

Cheshire Cricket Board is committed to ensuring that all children, young people (aged under 18) and adults who may be at risk involved with cricket in Cheshire have a safe, welcoming and positive experience. We comply with **England Cricket Board's (ECB) Safe Hands Policy** which promotes good practice, helps raise awareness and ensures people know what to do if they have any concerns about children or the behaviour of adults in cricket.

Julie Rafferty

County Safeguarding Officer
Julie.Rafferty@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

More information about safeguarding in cricket can be found on our website: