

Safeguarding Bulletin

June 2024

This month's focus: Banter vs Bullying

What is Banter?

Banter is teasing or joking that is amusing and friendly between people where there is no power imbalance. Most importantly it is an exchange and not one way – each giving and taking an equal share of the teasing. It is neither designed to nor has the effect of shaming, upsetting, belittling, offending or otherwise making anyone hearing it uncomfortable.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is **repeated** behaviour that causes physical or emotional harm whether intended or not. It can be offensive, insulting, humiliating, abusive, intimidating or malicious. Bullying doesn't require intent, what is important is the impact it has on the person being bullied.

When does banter cross the line?

In a group situation, if someone seems to get teased more than others, or is the repeated target of a joke, then it's not really banter anymore. That person is being singled out. Often people will not be confident enough to stand up for themselves if they are hurt by something. They don't want to be considered someone who can't take a joke, so will often laugh along so as not to draw attention to themselves. This means that everyone is still under the illusion that this is banter, not bullying, and it will only be reinforced! Don't be a bystander – if you suspect that some banter has become offensive to anyone involved, don't laugh. Even better – call it out! Just because someone calls it banter, it doesn't mean it is banter!

Antibullying Resources

[Free CPD online training \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://www.bullyingalliance.org.uk)

[You searched for bullying - Ann Craft Trust](#)

Awareness Days

June: Pride Month [Pride Month 2024: Origins, Parades & Dates | HISTORY](#)

June 5th: World Environment Day
[World Environment Day 2024 \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org)

Do you know who to contact?

The following link takes you to useful safeguarding contacts, including your NGB lead:

[Useful contacts & links - Bowls Development Alliance](#)



Roles and Responsibilities

The BDA website has lots of resources you can access for clarity on the roles and responsibilities of different Committee Members and the Safeguarding Officer:

[Education - Bowls Development Alliance](#)

[Resources - Bowls Development Alliance](#)