

## **Welfare Report (Eileen Marchant)**

### **North Council AGM 2017**

This is my last report and once again there is nothing of any significance to report with regard to any welfare issues which is always gratifying; however once again I wish to stress that it is important that we do not become complacent and that we continue to operate within the excellent guidance published by England Hockey. I know that overall clubs use this invaluable guidance if they have any concerns or issues.

The only issue that has arisen during the last year was a query from a Yorkshire Club about the proposed inclusion in a league game of a player who was under 13. The history within the club seemed to indicate that special permission had been granted in the past for this to be allowed but this was pre 2005 before current regulations were introduced in 2007 (updated in 2011). I sent a copy of the guidelines which are in England Hockey's SafeD and clearly outline the regulations with regard to Young People playing in Senior Teams.

Each County within the North should have a list of Welfare Officers for each of the clubs within the county; this position is just as important as that of other officers named within the handbook. Should there be any safe guarding issues it is crucial that every member in the club is very clear to whom they should go to.

I would like to wish my replacement well and am sure they will continue to promote the philosophy of North Hockey Association which believes that all young people have the right to be safe and to enjoy their involvement in hockey. In partnership with England Hockey and the Hockey Family we accept a responsibility to promote the welfare of young people and to protect them from harm.