



What can Iceland's win over England tells us about adult safeguarding?

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Like many, I was wondering how England's last 16 game against Iceland on Monday 27 June would turn out. Because I was preparing the paper I was due to deliver at the College of Occupational Therapists annual conference that week, I decided to record the game.

But the temptation to watch got the better of me and I tuned in for the second half. What a surprise it was to see that half time score! England, the founders of the 'beautiful game', were losing and playing badly. And the commentators were ranting about 'losing to Iceland'. Before the game, much had been said about Iceland being a very small country (the same size as Wakefield), with a handful of players and only 12 teams in the league, compared to the riches of the English's premier league. What I saw was a team of players who knew absolutely how each of them fitted into an overall game plan. [How did Iceland become Europe's giant-slayers?](#)

Since that match, we have heard about the strong connection between the Iceland team and the fans. This can be seen in the unified chant and clapping of the fans, and the players celebrating with them afterwards.

This is the kind of connection that what we want to build in Norfolk for adult safeguarding. It means that we all look out for one another, and know who to turn to if we want to help or support someone who is vulnerable. It means knowing what you have to do when you have an adult safeguarding concern, confident you will be supported by your organisation and playing your part in a whole community 'team' pulling together. The impact of this can and will be significant - supporting and helping to grow Norfolk's safeguarding adult network,

By the way, I do appreciate football is not to everyone's liking and other leisure interests are available :)

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