

Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy Leeds Canoe Club

Policy Statement

Leeds Canoe Club will take all reasonable steps to protect children and vulnerable adults from physical, sexual and emotional harm whilst taking part in official Club activities.

Definitions

Vulnerable Adult

“A person who is, or maybe, in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”.

Child

“Anyone under the age of 18”.

Good Practice Guidelines

The following guidelines have been devised not just to protect children and vulnerable adults, but also to provide appropriate guidance and therefore protection for coaches and members of the Club.

All coaches and members of the Leeds Canoe Club are encouraged to demonstrate appropriate behavior in order to protect themselves against the false allegations.

- Avoid situations where you are alone with one child/vulnerable adult. The Club acknowledges that occasionally there may be no alternative, for example, a child may be taking ill and had to be taken home. We would stress however that one-to-one contact must be avoided if at all possible and should never be allowed to occur on a regular basis.
- If any kind of physical support is required, ask permission and explain to the child/vulnerable persons and to their parents/carers what you are doing and why.
- Ask parents/carers to be responsible for children/vulnerable adults in changing rooms.
- Always ensure that adult supervising young people work in pairs.
- Whilst on trips or residential outings, mixed groups must be accompanied by a male and female coach/helper where possible.
- Do not allow physical or sexually provocative games, inappropriate touching or talking.
- Ensure that the nature and intensity of training does not exceed the capacity of a child/vulnerable adult physical or mental ability.

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- Follow the BCU guidelines for photography and video use.
- The Club will obtain written medical and contact details of parents/carers of for all under 18-year-olds, which will be made known to coaches, where deemed appropriate and/or necessary.
- All Club coaches, helpers and officials working with young people should read and adhere to the Clubs Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy. The Club will follow the guidance of the policy in the event of any concerns or allegations.
- Leaders and coaches will obtain dbs check

The NSPCC (2022) identifies a number of types of abuse that may affect children, including: bullying and cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation (CSE), child trafficking, criminal exploitation and gangs, domestic abuse, emotional abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM), grooming, neglect, non-recent abuse, online abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse. Some of these are expanded below:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE - threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, controlling, intimidation. This could include a parent or coach ridiculing or punishing a child for not achieving or performing well or using threats, aggressive/inappropriate language as an attempt to motivate them.

EXPLOITATION (CSE and CRIMINAL) – by individuals or by criminal gangs and organised crime groups; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation, county lines, and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. A young person may start missing coaching sessions or competitions, they may have money/possessions they didn't previously. They may gain new ideologies/beliefs or may start to get into trouble with parent or at school or with the Police.

GROOMING - Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know. Attempts to befriend and isolate young people in order to exploit them. Gaining their trust and building a relationship for ulterior motives, sexual or criminal.

NEGLECT - the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or emotional/psychological needs. It may involve a parent/carer failing to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, failing to protect a child from physical/emotional harm/danger (forcing a child to train when injured or in adverse/unsafe conditions).

SEXUAL ABUSE - can be contact offences such as rape and sexual assault. Or non-contact offences such as grooming, forcing or encouraging children to watch sexual content, or filming children in sexual content. Sexual abuse can be perpetrated by males and females and by adults and other children.

SEXTING - when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video. This includes a child (under 18) taking the images of themselves or forwarding images to others. Sending explicit material can be a sign of serious crimes such as grooming and sexual

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exploitation. Sending, receiving, or possession of ANY indecent images of children under the age of 18 is an offence.

DOMESTIC ABUSE - Can include all the different types of abuse, emotional, sexual, financial and physical and is prevalent across the 16-19 age group.

PHYSICAL ABUSE - for example hitting, pushing, punching, shaking or strangling. There may be signs of harm, such as bruises or marks that can't easily be explained or there is no consistent explanation. A child may also show fear/dislike of a coach or parent, where a positive relationship could be assumed.

If a child discloses abuse or if you suspect abuse

- Remain calm, do not display any emotional reaction.
- Report what the child has said to you. It is not your responsibility to decide whether or not abuse has taken place, only to report what the child has said to you.
- Do not ask the child explicit details.
- Never promise to keep a secret.
- Write down what the child has said as soon as possible. Record all relevant information i.e. the child's behaviour or appearance. Sign and date this.
 - Inform the Club Welfare Officer, Chairperson, or if they are unavailable any member of the Committee. If the matter is urgent then contact the BCU Child Protection Officer, the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour Help Line (0800 800 5000), or the Police.
- Coaches and leaders to complete safeguarding training module

Leeds Canoe club will Follow guidelines of British canoeing statement-
<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/P1-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Children-Policy-January-2023.pdf>

– report of concern statement will be followed with raised issues

Club Welfare officer details-

Report concerns to welfare@leedscanoeclub.com

Further info

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/P2-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Whistleblowing-Policy-January-2023.pdf>

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/P1-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Children-Policy-January-2023.pdf>

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Procedure-updated-08.04.2019.pdf>