

## SSC Cadets Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

This policy (based on the RYA Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Guidelines 2018) applies to all SSC Cadet officers/assistants/helpers to help safeguard everyone participating in SSC Cadets from physical, sexual or emotional harm. This is a requirement as part of our RTC and is for your protection as well as the cadets. A copy of the document can be viewed at [www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding)

### What is the difference between SAFEGUARDING and CHILD PROTECTION?

Child Protection describes the process of protecting an individual child. Safeguarding is action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm e.g a risk assessment, following good operating procedures etc.

The current contacts are: **Mike Robins** (Cadet Principal and Child Protection Co-ordinator)

The officers/assistants/helpers will take all reasonable steps to ensure that children participating in SSC Cadet activities do so in a safe environment. It is recognised that the safety and welfare of the child is paramount and that all children, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, have a right to protection from abuse.

### We will:

- Treat all children with respect and celebrate their achievements.
- Carefully recruit and select all Instructors and volunteers.
- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual child abuse.
- Create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.
- Run all training to the highest possible standards.

### Good practice guidelines

#### To minimise risk:

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children in isolation.
- Do not take children alone in a car. however short the journey.
- Do not take children to your home as part of your organisation's activity.
- Where any of these are unavoidable, ensure that they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the organisation or the child's parents.
- If a child is having difficulty with their wetsuit or buoyancy aid, ask them to ask a friend for help or make sure you are in full view of others.

#### You should never:

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged or use such language yourself when with children.
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- fail to respond to an allegation made by a child; always act.
- do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.

The designated person for any concerns or allegations, from children or adults, is the CADET PRINCIPAL who will decide on the appropriate action to be taken and ensure that confidentiality is maintained in all cases.

### Safe recruitment

Checks, including an enhanced DBS, will be made on anyone volunteering to assist with the Cadets. All instructors and assistants will be asked to agree to a DBS renewal when asked, preferably every 3 years. Anyone not agreeing to do so will be excluded from assisting with SSC Cadet activities and may be asked to absent themselves from the club premises on such occasions. All personal information will be treated as confidential and stored securely, only being made available to those who need it in the course of their duties or to protect cadets.

## **Parental responsibility and club liability**

Although clubs have a duty of care to their members, and particularly to young people who cannot take full responsibility for their own safety, parents must be responsible for their children's welfare and behaviour, or designate another adult to take that responsibility, outside formal club-organised activities.

## **Changing rooms and showers**

It is preferable for adults to stay away from the changing rooms while there are children there but at SSC it is very difficult in practice so extra vigilance may be required. However, bullying etc. can be an issue here and a balance should be struck depending on the situation. In general, it is better if one adult is not alone. If it is essential in an emergency situation, for a male to enter a female changing area or vice versa, it is advised that they are accompanied by another adult of the opposite gender.

## **First aid and medical treatment**

First aid is part of your normal duty of care. Obtain consent if medication or medical treatment is required in the absence of the parent/carer.

## **Photography**

It is important to minimise the risk of anyone using images of children in an inappropriate way. There are two key principles to bear in mind:

**Before taking photos or video, written consent must be obtained from the child and their parents/carers for their images to be taken and used. At SSC this is included on the membership form.**

- Do not allow a photographer to have unsupervised access to young people at the event or to arrange photo sessions outside the event.
- Care must be taken in the storage of and access to images.

**When publishing images, make sure they are appropriate and that you do not include any information that might enable someone to contact the child**

- It is preferable to use a general shot showing participants on the water, or a group shot, without identifying them by name.
- If you are recognising the achievement of an individual sailor and wish to publish their name with their photo, DO NOT publish any other information (eg. where they live, name of school, other hobbies and interests) that would enable someone to contact, befriend or start to 'groom' the child.
- Ensure that the young people pictured are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of inappropriate use.

The use of cameras or camera phones in changing areas should not be permitted in any circumstances. Such use by young people should be regarded as a form of bullying.

## **Handling an allegation from a child**

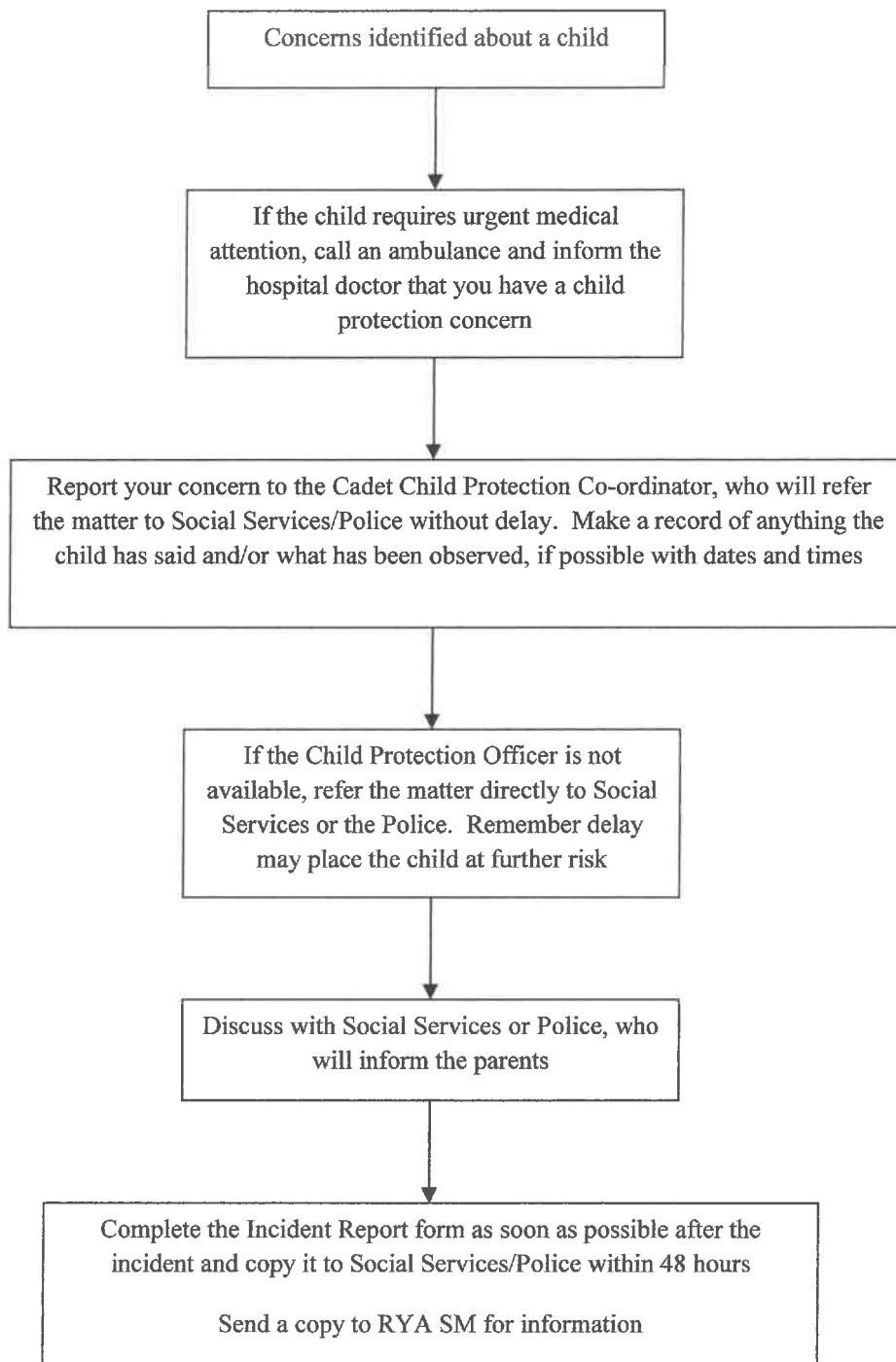
### **Always:**

- stay calm – ensure that the child is safe and feels safe.
- show and tell the child that you are taking what he/she says seriously.
- reassure that child and stress that he/she is not to blame.
- be careful about physical contact, it may not be what the child wants.
- be honest, explain that you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse.
- make a record of what the child has said as soon as possible after the event.
- follow your organisation's child protection procedures.

### **Never:**

- rush into actions that may be inappropriate.
- make promises you cannot keep (eg. you won't tell anyone).
- ask more questions than are necessary for you to be sure that you need to act.
- take sole responsibility – consult someone else (ideally the designated Child Protection/Welfare Officer or the person in charge or someone you can trust) so that you can begin to protect the child and gain support for yourself.

**Flowchart 1 – What to do if you are worried that a child is being abused outside the sport’s environment (but the concern is identified through the child’s involvement in the sport)**



**Flowchart 2 – What to do if you are concerned about the behaviour of any member, volunteer or instructor working for SSC Cadets**

