

Safeguarding and Protecting Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Sporting Communities

This policy applies to all individuals working on behalf of Sporting Communities, including senior management, board members, paid workers, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, students, and anyone else involved.

Purpose of the Policy

- To protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults who receive services from Sporting Communities.
- To provide a framework for guiding the behaviour of workers and volunteers, ensuring the safety and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Commitment

Sporting Communities believes that no child, young person, or vulnerable adult should experience abuse of any kind. We are committed to safeguarding their welfare and creating an environment where they feel safe and empowered to participate in our activities. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all those involved and to follow best practices in doing so.

Definitions

- Child or Young Person: Anyone under the age of 18, as defined by the Children's Act 1989.
- Vulnerable Adult: Anyone aged 18 or older who may be in need of care services due to mental health issues, disabilities, age, illness, or other factors and may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

Policy Principles

Sporting Communities is dedicated to:

- Ensuring the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- Respecting the rights, wishes, and feelings of all participants, regardless of their characteristics.
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm.
- Ensuring that all workers understand their responsibilities under this policy, with non-compliance potentially leading to disciplinary action.
- Investigating allegations of poor practice and taking appropriate action.
- Recruiting safely, with all employees undergoing appropriate checks, including DBS where relevant, and being provided with safeguarding training.
- Working in partnership with parents, carers, and local services to ensure comprehensive safeguarding.

Legal and Legislative Context

This policy is guided by UK legislation and government guidance, including:

- GDPR 2018
- Children Acts 1989 and 2004
- Protection of Children Act 1999
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Act 2006
- Other relevant local and national guidelines

Good Practice Guidelines

Workers and volunteers at Sporting Communities must adhere to the following good practices:

- Publicly open behaviour when working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults.
- Equal treatment of all participants with respect and dignity.

- Fairness in all actions, confronting bullying, and putting the welfare of participants first.
- Avoiding unnecessary physical contact unless required, and only with the consent of the individual.
- Maintaining boundaries and avoiding situations that could be misconstrued as inappropriate or intimate.
- Parental or carer consent for transporting children or vulnerable adults and maintaining appropriate ratios during activities.
- Leading by example, with no smoking, drinking, or inappropriate behaviour in front of participants.

Poor Practice

Workers and volunteers must avoid:

- Spending excessive time alone with a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- Engaging in rough, highly physical, or sexual activities.
- Unnecessary physical contact, or making inappropriate comments.
- Transporting participants alone without appropriate permissions or working outside of the Lone Worker Policy.
- Failing to act on concerns or allegations made by participants.

If any concerns arise, they must be reported immediately, following the outlined safeguarding procedures.

Responding to Disclosures

If a child, young person, or vulnerable adult discloses abuse:

- Do not promise secrecy. Explain that the information must be shared with those who can help.
- Listen carefully and remain calm, avoiding leading questions.

- Record the information immediately, noting key details such as names, times, and facts. Submit the report to the designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.

Reporting and Incident Management

Concerns should be reported to the designated Safeguarding Lead or another responsible person immediately. Incident reports should include all relevant information and be thorough, avoiding personal opinions.

In cases where urgent action is needed (e.g., if medical attention is required), call emergency services immediately.

Recruitment and Training

To ensure the safety of children, young people, and vulnerable adults, all Sporting Communities workers and volunteers must:

- Complete an application form that includes information about past experience and criminal records.
- Undergo an enhanced DBS check where relevant.
- Provide references, including one regarding prior work with children.
- Be trained in safeguarding procedures, including basic safeguarding awareness and first aid.

Confidentiality

All safeguarding-related information will be handled on a need-to-know basis and stored securely in compliance with GDPR.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Name - Ross Podyma



Phone - 07809 536703

Email - ross@sportingcommunities.co.uk

In the instance that the Designated Safeguarding Lead is unavailable, please contact the acting Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Name - Jon Keresztury

Phone - 07732 902292

Email - jon@sustainingcommunitiescic.org

Other Contacts

If there is an immediate concern, Sporting Communities workers should contact the relevant local safeguarding team:

- **Cheshire East Consultation Service** - 0300 123 5012 (option 3)
- **Cheshire East Consultation Service Out of hours Emergency Duty team** - 0300 123 5022
- **Derby City First Contact Team** - 01332 641172 (9am-5pm weekdays only)
- **Derby City Care Line** - 01332 786968 (evenings and weekends)
- **Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Referral Team** - 01782 235100
- **Staffordshire First Response** - 0800 1313 126
- **NSPCC Report Abuse** - 0808 800 5000