

Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Adults at Risk

Policy and Procedures Document.
Okehampton Running Club

1st May 2018

This document has been compiled with reference to the UKA Safeguarding policy and complements that policy in making it relevant and appropriate to Okehampton Running Club.

Policy Objectives

Introduction

Everyone who takes part in athletics is entitled to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. Okehampton Running Club (ORC) is committed to establishing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment for all.

All children and adults at risk are entitled to a duty of care and to be protected from abuse. ORC is committed to devising, implementing and updating policies and procedures to promote best practice to ensure everyone in the sport understands and accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children and adults from harm and abuse. This means taking action to report any concerns about their welfare. It does not mean a responsibility to determine whether or not abuse has taken place. This is the domain of safeguarding professionals.

This policy and its accompanying procedures apply to:-

Children

A Child is anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday. 'Children' therefore means children and young people throughout. The fact a child has reached 16 years of age, living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody, does not change his or her status or entitlement to protection under the Children Act 1989.

Adults at Risk

An adult at Risk is a person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

1. Policy Statement

The welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount.

All children and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse

All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

All individuals involved in ORC understand and accept their responsibility to report concerns to the safeguarding officer.

2. Best Practice

Best practice means: -

Being open and conducting all interactions with children in a public place and with appropriate consent.

Avoiding situations where you are alone with one child or adult at risk.

One on one coaching should be conducted in an open environment and where full consent and emergency contact details have been provided.

Avoid travelling alone with a child or adult at risk but if necessary avoid consistently having one child alone with you. Sit a child in the back of a car.

Challenging bullying, harassment, bad language or controlling behaviour that could upset an individual.

Never ignore bullying by parents, coaches or others. Listen to and support the person being bullied.

Maintaining appropriate relationships with children and adults at risk; this means treating people fairly, respectfully and avoiding favouritism.

Respecting all individuals and helping them to take responsibility for their own development and decision making.

Avoiding unnecessary physical contact. In certain circumstances physical contact is perfectly acceptable and appropriate, as long as it is not intrusive or disturbing to the individual and that consent has been given by the individual and appropriate parental consent has been sought.

Being qualified and insured for the activities you are coaching and ensuring your licence remains valid. Ensure your practice is appropriate for the age and development stage of each athlete irrespective of their chronological age.

Be professional. Be careful how you interact with or speak to a child, the child may interpret it differently.

Making a written note of any event which may raise concern and inform parents or appropriate adults of the incident and inform the safeguarding officer.

3.Abuse

Types of abuse:

Physical- Any action causing physical harm to an individual.

Emotional- Persistent emotional maltreatment of an individual as to cause severe and persistent and adverse effects on the individual's emotional development.

Sexual -activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely

perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect- Persistent failure to meet an individual's basic physical and or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the individual's health or development.

Financial-- financial or material abuse, including theft, fraud, exploitation, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Discriminatory abuse-including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment. Vigilance is also required to identify children, young people and adults at risk from the involvement of other people in extremist activities.

You may become aware that a child or young person is at risk from the activities of others through:

- Discussion of activities outside the club.
- Disclosure by the child or young person that a friend is getting them to go on demos or other protest activity.
- Direct disclosure of an activity or plan – for example 'My parents are taking me to [name of place overseas] because my family want to help with the struggle'.

CONTEST - is the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy and has specific procedures for dealing with concerns.

4. Selection and training

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from undertaking a role and responsibility in relation to children or adults at risk such as running leaders/coaches.

All running leaders and coaches must complete a criminal records check (enhanced DBS level) to the satisfaction of UK Athletics.

5. Responding to Disclosure, Suspensions and Allegations

It is not the responsibility of any coach/run leader or member to decide whether a concern constitutes abuse. It is their responsibility to report any concern. These may arise due to

- ☐ An individual disclosing that they are being abused.
- ☐ The behaviour of an adult towards a child or vulnerable adult.
- ☐ A number of indicators observed in a child or vulnerable adult over a period of time.

DO

Stay calm.

Listen carefully.

Be sympathetic.

Tell the person that they did the right thing in telling you.

Inform them you are treating the information seriously.

Inform them it was not their fault.

Say you may have to pass the information on to more responsible persons.

Write down what the person said to you as soon as possible.

DO NOT

Probe for more information than is offered.

Speculate or make assumptions.

Show shock or distaste.

Make comments about the person against whom the allegations have been made.

Make promises or agree to keep secrets.

Give a guarantee of confidentiality.

Gossip about the incident.

All suspicions and disclosures must be reported appropriately. It is acknowledged that strong emotions can be aroused particularly in cases of possible sexual abuse or where there is a misplaced loyalty to a friend/colleague.

6. Reporting procedures

Any person with information of a disclosure, allegation or concern about the welfare of a child or adult at risk must immediately report this in one of the following ways.

If believed to be in immediate danger phone the **Police** on **999**

If you are a member of Okehampton Running Club you should immediately inform the club's designated Club Welfare Officer (CWO) or Safeguarding Officer (SO) who will refer the matter to an appropriate authority. In the event of the CWO/SO being unavailable do not hesitate to contact the Local Authority Safeguarding Team for advice.

The Club Welfare Officer is currently Anne Binns. Tel 07765514643

Record carefully what is said using the child's/persons own words including how and when the account was given. Date, time and sign the record and pass this onto the CWO.