

Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Safeguarding is everyone's business. This policy sets out Long Eaton Riding Club's ("LERC") responsibility under the Children's act 2004 to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults are kept safe from harm.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to protect and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved with or in contact with LERC activities. LERC committee members have a clear responsibility to take action when they suspect or recognise that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be a victim of significant harm or abuse.
- 2.2 It is necessary that all LERC committee members having direct contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults have an understanding of the issues involved.
- 2.3 This procedure for safeguarding must be in place and which is accessible, easily understandable and easy to implement.

3. Legal Duties

- 3.1 The Children Act 1989 states that the child's welfare is paramount and that every child has a right to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 10, 11 and 13 of the Children Act 2004 and specifies what is required. This includes;
- (i) Commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare,
 - (ii) A clear statement of LERC's responsibilities to children which should be available 4. Principles LERC believes Safeguarding is committed to the following principles for children, young people and vulnerable adults,
 - (iii) Their welfare is paramount,
 - (iv) Whatever their background and culture, parental or pregnancy status, age, disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sexual orientation and/or gender identity, they have the right to participate in society in an environment which is safe and free from violence, fear, abuse, bullying and discrimination,
 - (v) They have the right to be protected from harm, exploitation, abuse, and to be provided with safe environments to live and play.

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1 LERC is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse when they are engaged with LERC activities.

5. Procedure

- 5.1 The LERC Safeguarding Policy must be read in conjunction with any other appropriate policies that LERC adheres to. Copies of all policies can be obtained upon request, from a committee member.

- 5.2 All committee members are expected to make themselves familiar with the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation against a member of the club or a member of the public attending a LERC event or if they have any serious concerns about a child.
- 5.3 LERC endeavour to provide an environment in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe and feel safe, where they are valued, where they are listened to and where they know that their concerns will be taken seriously. If any matter gives us cause for concern regarding the safety and welfare of a child, young person or vulnerable adult then LERC's primary responsibility will be to that child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- 5.4 Causes for concern may be direct disclosures of abuse, but may also include changes in behaviour, marks or bruises or hearing children talk about inappropriate subjects. It is not safe to assume that someone else will take action. As an adult you have a duty to take appropriate action. Recognising and coping with child, young person or vulnerable adult abuse can be very stressful and the person reporting the concern will be fully supported by the committee of LERC.

6. Key Definitions

- 6.1 **Abuse:** Abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a difficult issue and presents challenges to all involved. It is not always easily recognisable and is categorised into four groups;
- 6.2 **Physical:** This is when individuals physically hurt or injure children or young people. This can include hitting, shaking, squeezing, burning, biting, allowing access to alcohol.
- 6.3 **Emotional:** Persistent lack of love and affection can cause emotional damage. Being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted.
- 6.4 **Neglect:** An adult may fail to meet the basic needs of a child, such as food, warm clothing and environment or medical attention. Children being left alone unsupervised may also constitute neglect.
- 6.5 **Sexual:** This is when children/person are encouraged or forced to observe or participate in any form of sexual activity. This could be unnecessary or inappropriate physical contact, suggestive comments,
- 6.6 **Safeguarding:** This is an umbrella term encompassing the safety and well-being of a child. Employees of Acorn recognise the importance of meeting the needs of all children and the necessity to intervene early to provide support.

7. Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

- 7.1 LERC recognises its responsibility to;
- (i) Safeguard children and promote their welfare,
 - (ii) Promote good health,
 - (iii) Support children's behaviour,
 - (iv) Ensure the suitability of adults who have contact with children,
 - (v) Ensure that facilities are safe and suitable,

- (vi) Ensure that organisational arrangements enable all children to have a positive learning and development experience,
- (vii) Maintain records, policies and procedures relating to safeguarding.
- (viii) LERC will take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well and must also be alert to any issues for concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere.

8. Review

- 8.1 This policy is to be reviewed by the committee annually or when there are significant changes to legislation and guidance, which may warrant an earlier review.

9. Procedures for Child Protection

- 9.1 Any committee member who have, or become aware of, concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or unborn baby should discuss any concerns they have with the rest of the committee to clarify their understanding of the child's circumstances.
- 9.2 Concerns about the immediate safety and welfare of children.: If a LERC committee member have concerns for the immediate safety and welfare of a child, LERC will act without delay to notify child protection agencies.
- 9.3.1 Nottinghamshire Emergency Contact Numbers;
- (i) Safeguarding Concerns 01159 773935,
 - (ii) Police: 101.

10. What to do on suspicion or disclosure of abuse

- 10.1 If a child, young person or vulnerable adult spontaneously talks of experiences which give a cause for concern you should;
- (i) Explain to the child, young person or vulnerable adult that if he/she discloses information which leads you to believe they are being abused, that you will be unable to keep it confidential.
 - (ii) Listen to the child/person without questioning him or her.
 - (iii) Do not ask leading questions and be aware of your own reactions as showing disapproval may stop the child/person from continuing their disclosure
 - (iv) Do not try to stop the child/person from recalling events. Make a note of what is said, in what context, the setting, the timing and the people that were present.
 - (v) Report (as per 9.3 above) at the earliest possible opportunity.

11. Dissemination of Policy

- 11.1 This Safeguarding Policy will be shared with LERC's committee members, club members, and any other person who requests access to it for justifiable reasons.