



2023

# Safeguarding Children & Young Persons Policy

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## Statement:

New Forest Water Park acknowledges that all its employees have a responsibility to safeguard children who are at risk of, abuse and neglect. This policy and procedure outlines what safeguarding is and what to do if you have a concern.

New Forest Water Park acknowledges that The Children Act 1989 and 2004 and the Government Document "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018" are clear that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone.

New Forest Water Park is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all people visiting the site. All groups of people whatever their age, gender, language, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and culture have the right to protection from abuse and to be treated fairly.

New Forest Water Park recognises that its staff and volunteers have a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We will all be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. We will be child centred and take a coordinated and partnership approach to safeguarding. We recognise safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of New Forest Water Park to safeguarding children and young persons and to ensure that everyone involved in New Forest Water Park is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding children and young persons
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding children and young persons
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of a child within the organisation.

## Scope

This safeguarding children and young persons policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in New Forest Water Park including Directors, Board members, Staff, Coaches, Volunteers and Members.

We expect our partner organisations, including for example, affiliated clubs, suppliers and sponsors to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice as set out in this Safeguarding Adults Policy and associated procedures.

## Commitments

### All employees & volunteers will:

- help to protect all children or young persons from abuse whilst they are at New Forest Water Park
- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of all children or young persons
- Encourage the reporting of concerns of abuse that has happened to them or others
- Have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to safeguard children or young persons
- Take appropriate action in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support the individual who has raised or disclosed the concerns.

### **New Forest Water Park will:**

- Provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical, mental wellbeing and moral development of the individual child or young person.
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.
- Maintain and securely store confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns.
- Reinforce the importance of working with all partner agencies with the aim of achieving the best possible outcomes for those who we are aiming to protect from the risk of abuse.
- Provide the details about the action that will be taken by New Forest Water Park when a safeguarding concern is reported.
- Notify the local statutory agency as soon as there is a significant concern.
- Recognise that all of those who occupy positions of responsibility, who work and volunteer have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm;
- Ensure that staff, members, volunteers involved in child protection issues receive appropriate support and supervision.
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers with roles and responsibilities for children and young people are subject to appropriate safe recruitment checks and safeguarding training.

### **New Forest Water Park will support all children and young persons by:**

- Allowing them to participate in activities in a way that is appropriate for their age and ability.
- Ensuring that they are coached and trained by appropriately qualified staff or volunteers who have been competently trained.
- Encourage self-esteem and self-assertiveness, whilst not condoning aggression or bullying.
- Promote a caring, safe and positive environment through training of officials.
- Responding sympathetically to any requests for time out to deal with distress and anxiety.
- Recognising that a child who is abused or who witnesses violence/abuse may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame themselves, and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth.
- Liaising and working together with all other partnerships, support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children
- Accessing and utilising the necessary resources and guidance to identify children requiring mental health support.
- Reassuring victims/survivors that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- Reinforcing good safeguarding practice to equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):**

Millie Jury (Director)

[info@newforestwaterpark.co.uk](mailto:info@newforestwaterpark.co.uk)

### **Club Welfare Officer (CWO)**

Millie Jury (Director)

[info@newforestwaterpark.co.uk](mailto:info@newforestwaterpark.co.uk)

### **Definition of safeguarding:**

#### **Safeguarding children is defined as:**

- Protecting them from abuse and maltreatment.
- Preventing harm to a child/young persons mental and physical health or development.
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with National

guidance.

**Safeguarding concern** - When there is information that a child or young person has been harmed, or is at risk of being harmed, by their own or someone else's behaviour.

**Safeguarding allegation** - Where a person who is either a staff member, volunteer or contractor working on behalf of the club has<sup>1</sup>:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children or others
- Behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children or young persons.

**Parent** - Refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers, adoptive parents and LA corporate parents.

### **Abuse of Trust**

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 section 3 created the offence of abuse of trust. It is an offence for a person aged 18 or over to have sexual intercourse with a person under 18, or to engage in any other sexual activity with, or directed towards such a person, if in either case that person is in a position of trust in relation to the under 18-year-old. This applies even if the relationship is consensual.

A person aged 18 or over ("Person A") is in a position of trust in relation to a person under that age ("Person B") if any of four conditions are satisfied. One relates to the education field and is as follows: "Person A" looks after persons who are under 18 and are receiving full-time education in an institution and "Person B" is receiving such education within that institution.

**Abuse** - A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or by another child or children.

### **Poor practice:**

Sometimes, concerns may relate to poor practice, where an adult's or another young person's behaviour is inappropriate and may be causing distress to a child or young person. In the application of this policy, poor practice includes any behaviour which contravenes the principles of this document or RLSS UK Code of Conduct. Where poor practice is serious or repeated this could also constitute abuse and should be reported immediately.

It is essential all staff and volunteers, particularly coaches, instructors and trainers understand and maintain professional boundaries when working with children.

## **Recognising a safeguarding concern:**

We will be alert for the signs and indicators that children and young people who interact or engage with New Forest Water Park may be suffering abuse either within the organisation or in external environments (i.e. home, school etc). We should remember that children may be abused by other children and young people as well as by adults.

Indicators that a child may be being abused may include the following:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries,
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent,
- They describe what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her,
- Someone else (a young person or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another,
- Unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g., becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper),
- Inappropriate sexual awareness,
- Engaging in sexually explicit behaviour,
- Sudden or unusual distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected,
- Having difficulty in making friends,
- Being prevented from socialising with other young people or adults,
- Displaying variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite; or a sudden weight change
- Becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt.

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is actually taking place. Establishing a professional relationship with the child and their parent may assist in identifying any issues or concerns.

It is important to note that not all children are able to express themselves verbally. Communication difficulties, language barriers or specific disabilities may mean that it is hard for them to complain or to be understood. In some instances children particularly those with disability may need to be supported by an advocate.

We also recognise that many children and young people may have experienced trauma in their past which could be affecting their behaviour and outcomes in life. We recognise that we have an important part to play in providing a safe environment for those who have suffered from such trauma and we will provide help and support through signposting them to specialist help and support.

## **Reporting a concern:**

Should any member of staff at any time suspect there is a safeguarding concern with any child, whether they are taking part in the activities or not, this must be reported immediately. If there is an immediate risk to the child then call 999 for ambulance or police.

If there is not an immediate risk, then this must be reported to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) immediately. An accurate and comprehensive record must be kept of exactly what the concern is, what has been witnessed or has been said by the child or young person. A comprehensive form compiled by the RLSS can be found in the health and safety folder.

The DSL along with the member of staff who raised the concern will then have the responsibility to pass this information on to the relevant authority.

The NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000 can be contacted for expert advice on how to proceed.

If the DSL is unavailable or absent then the concern must be reported to a member of senior management and the same procedures followed.

## Record

All records must be accurate and comprehensive. Reporting forms are available on the RLSS website to use. A record must be kept of all potential safeguarding issues including low level concerns.

- All records must be made as soon as possible after the concern is raised.
- Must include the date, time, people present and anything said
- Details of the behaviour of the person disclosing the safeguarding issue
- Detail any action you have taken
- Details must be factual
- Adhere to confidentiality and only share with appropriate people
- Do not record any opinion about what has happened

## Communication

New Forest Water Park will make available its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to all staff, volunteers, members and partner organisations.

## Appendix

Content used from:

- RLSS UK Child Protection policy
- NSPCC website

## Adoption of policy

I confirm that New Forest Water Park has formally adopted and implemented this Safeguarding children and young persons policy.

Name:	Date:	Signature: