



# **SLEA PADDLERS CANOE CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

**JULY 2019**



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Slea Paddlers work in accordance with The Children Act 1989 and Lincolnshire Children's Safeguard Board's Code of Practice.

### Ground Rules

The welfare of the children attending this group is paramount.

All known abusers will be excluded.

All volunteers who have substantially unsupervised access to children will be checked through the DBS procedure. They will be subject to a probationary period and their appointment will not be confirmed until the Group is confident they can be safely entrusted with children.

All volunteers will be aware of child protection procedures.

All volunteers should be aware of possible signs of child abuse (see Signs and Symptoms) and encouraged to undergo child protection training.

The person with responsibility for welfare officer issues within the Group is Natalie Jones & Kevin Matthews (Welfare Officers).

### Confidentiality

All welfare concerns will be strictly confidential. Family information can only be disclosed with the express permission of the family unless it is considered that, for the protection of a child, information should be shared with the appropriate authority.

### What to do if you are concerned for a child's welfare

Whenever worrying changes are observed in a child's behaviour, physical condition or appearance, a specific and confidential record will be set up. This record will include the child's name, address, age, times and dated observations. The report will objectively describe the child's behaviour and appearance without comment or interpretation, where possible the child's exact words spoken, the date, time and signature of the recorder. If possible another member of staff should witness the observation.

Discuss the situation with the named person for welfare issues who will be responsible for making a referral to Social Services, Police or NSPCC, ensuring the immediate safety of the child and recording allegations and any action taken. If still concerned, advice can always be sought from Social Services/Lincolnshire Children's Safeguard Board by contacting:

Social Childrens Social Care (Lincoln) 01522 782111  
"Out of Hours" service 01522 782333  
NSPCC 08088 005000

Next steps could include a Child Protection Conference, placing a child on the Child Protection Register, a written Child Protection Plan, the appointment of a Key Worker, ongoing reviews, and possible legal action. Where investigations are ongoing, the Group will endeavour to continue to welcome the child and their parents into the Group.

**Where a volunteer/member of staff is accused of Child Abuse**

The person concerned will be interviewed immediately by the person in charge of the Group. The person accused may choose to attend the interview accompanied by a friend or advisor. They will be informed of the allegation and immediately suspended whilst an investigation is made. Investigations will be conducted with the help of the Children's Safeguard Board and in accordance with its procedures.

Confidential records of the proceedings will be kept.

This policy was adopted at a meeting held on (date):

Signed on behalf of the Group by:

Position held: Chairman

w: [www.slea-paddlers.co.uk](http://www.slea-paddlers.co.uk)