

## **NCC/SAP/002**

### **Norwich Canoe Club-Safeguarding Adults Policy February 2020**

Norwich Canoe Club is committed to ensuring that everyone taking part in canoeing is able to do so protected and kept safe from abuse or neglect while they are with coaches, volunteers and/ or staff irrespective of age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation. As with children and young people, all adults have the right to live free from abuse or neglect.

All coaches and clubs should have a clear understanding of operating within an appropriate code of ethics, aware of their duty of care and how this relates to their position in providing activities and being responsible for others.

#### **DUTY OF CARE**

In an activity such as canoeing, safety and keeping people safe is all about risk assessment and minimising the risks involved at all levels of participation. While Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us, in organised activity we have a heightened duty of care and as such we should be aware that the principal risks extend to the quality of control exercised by those in charge. Coaches, officials or administrators should all take 'reasonable' steps to safeguard those directly taking part in activities and at any time they may be deemed responsible for those in their charge - in vehicles, during journeys to and from the activity, during events, team training events and camps etc.

A good definition of 'duty of care' is:

**“The duty which rests upon an individual or organisation to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of any person involved in any activity for which that individual or organisation is responsible.”**

Safeguarding Adults includes:

- Protecting their rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- People and organisations working together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect, and to stop them from happening.
- Making sure people's wellbeing is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.

## **Safeguarding duties apply to an Adult who:**

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Norwich Canoe Club recognise that there are some people who may be at increased risk of abuse or neglect and therefore potentially more vulnerable than others. This can be due to a number of factors ranging from; health or social care needs; to specific circumstances at a particular time. These factors can continue over any period of time and may be intermittent, temporary or permanent and based on the individual's circumstances as well as the level of information and support available to them. There are some people who will target those who they consider to be more vulnerable than others in order to abuse/ exploit them. It is important to be extra vigilant if you think someone could be at greater risk or in a situation which could increase their vulnerability.

## **RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE**

If an adult indicates that they are being abused, or information is received which gives rise to concern, the person receiving the information should:

- Stay Calm
- Listen carefully to what is said, allowing the adult to continue at their own pace, and take it seriously.
- Explain that it is likely the information will have to be shared with others- do not promise to keep secrets.
- Keep questions to a minimum, only ask questions if you need to identify/ clarify what the person is telling you.
- Reassure the person that they have done the right thing in revealing the information.
- Ask them what they would like to happen next.
- Explain what you would like to do next and ask if they are happy for you to share the information in order for you to help them.
- Record in writing what was said using the adult's own words as soon as possible. Do not interpret.

## DIFFERENCES IN REPORTING CONCERNS RELATING TO ADULTS

Where there is a concern that a child has been abused, there is a duty of care to report that concern and for it to be followed up without the need to gain consent from the child or guardian.

When reporting a concern about an adult the following key points must be taken into account:

- Consent from the adult must be granted before reporting any concerns unless the adult doesn't have capacity, or not acting would put the person at more harm or if there is an overriding public duty to intervene. Please discuss with one of our welfare officers if any concerns.
- Must respect the decision of the adult.
- Must assume an adult has capacity unless proven otherwise

This can be read in combination with the British canoeing Policy here:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/Safeguarding/P6-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Adults-Policy-2905188.docx.pdf>

British Canoeing Safeguarding Officers Contact details:

0115 8968842

[safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

Signed by the NCC Community Coach.....Date .....

Tim Scott

Signed Chairperson.....Date .....

Siobhan Rowe

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