

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Broxbourne Borough Council believes that all vulnerable people have the right to be safe from harm, exploitation and neglect. As such, the Council recognises the role and responsibilities it has in safeguarding vulnerable adults, including the contribution it must make to working together with other agencies to ensure the well-being of vulnerable people.

For queries regarding this policy contact our Designated Officer for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Child Safeguarding Officers (Details on Poster):

Policy Statement

John Warner Sport Centre is committed to safeguarding from harm, all vulnerable adults involved in any way in the Swim England activities and courses and to treating them with courtesy and respect during their dealings with the Centre

Scope of the Policy

The policy is in respect of the Centre responsibility and duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults and Children within the Centre.

Definition of safeguarding

There are many aspects that are considered within safeguarding. These are clearly defined in the following two statutory guidance documents.

- Borough of Broxbourne Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy**
- Borough of Broxbourne Child Protection policy**

These are available on line and the most recent documents must be viewed. These are updated by the borough when there are changes to how safeguarding is to be managed effectively.

To summarise safeguarding is:

- Where a child is suffering significant harm, or likely to do so, action should be taken to protect that child. (Section 47 and 44 of the Children Act 1989)
- Where action should be taken to promote the welfare of a child in need of additional support, even if they are not suffering harm or at immediate risk. (Section 17 of the Children Act 1989)

A child is defined as under the age of 18 years. A vulnerable adult may be someone that is disabled and has specific additional needs, has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan), is a young carer or is in a family

circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

Specific Safeguarding Concerns

Specific safeguarding concerns are detailed within the following documents:

- Borough of Broxbourne Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy**
- Borough of Broxbourne Child Protection policy**

It is essential that all those that work with children and adults are fully aware of these documents. They list the responsibilities of the various key stakeholders, detailing who and what to do in the case of a safeguarding concern.

The specific safeguarding concerns noted in Keeping Children Safe in Education include:

- Bullying including cyberbullying
- Children missing education
- Child missing from home or care
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Domestic violence
- Drugs
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage
- Gangs and youth violence
- Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Hate
- Mental health
- Missing children and adults
- Private fostering
- Preventing radicalisation
- Relationship abuse
- Sexting
- Trafficking

Further detail specific to Swim England Qualifications

John Warner Sport Centre Swim England Swimming Teaching courses offer excellent opportunities for people to train, try new things, make friends and improve their skills. For young people, they are places where appropriate and trusting relationships with adults outside the family or school are developed. Such relationships of trust should be used appropriately to support and advise young people, and to demonstrate the positive values of sport through role modelling.

However, sport can also provide opportunities for adults with an interest in harming children to target and abuse them through their role as a coach, volunteer or paid employee. This also includes educators which you may know personally and have worked with in the past.

Abusers often take steps to ensure they are perceived by others as respectable, reliable and trustworthy people. Research tells us that the vast majority of abusers are well known to the child and their family, often holding positions of trust or authority.

The important thing is to understand that this can and does happen. At some level most abusers know what they are doing is wrong and harmful, so develop distorted views about appropriate behaviour to justify their actions

If you suspect that someone is abusing a child, or using abusive/inappropriate behaviour or language reporting the abuse may not be something you want to consider. Especially if the

alleged abuser is a friend or colleague. Your initial reaction may be to dismiss it or try to prove it is not true. But it's vital that you report your concerns. By not reporting your concerns it could mean that the abuse will continue.

There are many reasons why adults do not report their concerns, but you should never let anything stop you from protecting a child.

It is not your responsibility to decide whether or not a child is being abused or to undertake investigations, but it is your responsibility to act if you have any concerns.

Barriers to responding and reporting

- Disbelief
- Conflict of interest
- Communication difficulties
- Grooming
- Fear of getting it wrong
- Lack of knowledge
- Position of power
- Reporting systems
- Not knowing who to contact
- Not wanting to get involved
- Fear of consequences
- Not seeing anybody else doing anything
- Feeling vulnerable

Grooming other adults

Successful abusers groom not only the child but also the adults around the child. By grooming the adults around the child, developing a reputation of respectability, helpfulness or popularity within the club, the abuser makes it more difficult for the child to disclose abuse, or for adults (who trust and may know the individual well) to accept even the possibility the allegations could be true.

If in doubt, report

You can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0800 800 5000 where you can discuss your concerns with a helpline counsellor. You do not need to say who you are but you can talk about your worries and a helpline counsellor can advise what they think should happen.. You can also contact the Borough of Broxbourne (See Poster) for safeguarding team details,

The concept of whistle blowing is important in any organisation that is committed to maintaining appropriate levels of safeguarding and good practice.

Whistle blowing allows individuals to raise issues of poor practice or misconduct by members and employees.

The John Warner Sport Centre is committed to developing a culture that is safe and encourages all those involved in swimming to raise concerns of poor / unacceptable Practice and / or breaches in safeguarding or abuse.

Children are vulnerable to abuse and all adults who work in clubs, whether paid or unpaid, members or non-members must look to safeguard their welfare. The John Warner Sport Centre believe it is necessary to develop a culture in all lessons, clubs, counties, regions and nationally where concerned individuals can raise issues about unacceptable practice and misconduct in a safe and supportive environment.

You can also complete a Whistleblowing form on our website where you do not have to

provide your contact details.

If we decide a child may be at risk or in need of additional support, the helpline counsellor or SEQ staff will ask you for the child's details. You can decide if you are willing to provide this information so that they can act on your behalf by sharing the information with the appropriate agency such as children's services (also known as social services or children's social care).

1. In cases which allege harm to a child, potential criminal acts, child abuse or allegations against an individual in a position the organisation must refer directly to statutory agencies such as Police, MASH, Children's Social Care and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Statutory Agencies will follow procedures under the Children's Acts 1989 and 2004 and the Government Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) to determine next steps.

2. In cases where there is an allegation or concerns that any person who works or volunteers with children has:

- 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 they may pose a risk of harm to children.

Remember the NSPCC helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is free to call from landlines and most mobile networks.

Don't wait until you're certain. If you're not sure, run it by someone and they can assess the situation and advise you further. You might be wrong but you could be right and sharing your concerns can help to keep the child safe.

Remain anonymous

When you make contact, you do not need to say who you are or how you know the child of concern, if you do not wish to.

If you do provide information that may identify you, we may need to pass this on to children's services. But we would always ask them not to share it with the alleged abuser or the family.

Everyone working with children and vulnerable adults has a responsibility for keeping them safe. If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or vulnerable adult, it is your responsibility to take action.

Approved Centre requirements of their Educators

All Educators must hold a current Swim England license. As part of the licensing scheme and relevant to safeguarding, the tutor/assessor will:

- Complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (previously referred to as a CRB) and update this every three years or sign up to the DBS update service
- Complete an approved safeguarding and protecting children in sport course and update this every three years
- Read, understand and abide by the Centres Code of Ethics, Wavepower and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

All our educators to read and confirm they have understood our centres safeguarding policy and have read Keeping children safe in education Part 1.

Borough of Broxbourne Designated Child Protection Officers (DCPO)

Steve Whitlam – 01992 785555 Extension 5909

Mobile:- 07803371214

Steve.whitlam@broxbourne.gov.uk

Deputy DCPO is

Nikki Hall - 01992 785555 Extension 5574

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Borough of Broxbourne Designated Officer for Vulnerable Adults

Pat O’Keeffe – 01992 785555 Extension 5523

Further information can be found on our website:- www.bebroxbourne.co.uk

Monitoring and review

This policy and its procedures will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains fit for purpose and reflects the legal obligations for the safeguarding of children.

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Author	L Donovan	Authorised by:	
Owned by:	JWSC	Issue No:	V3
Effective from:	January 2023	Next review date:	January 2025