

Southbourne

Surf Life Saving Club



(Founded 1986)

Safeguarding Policy 2021

Policy Owner	Safeguarding Officer
Policy Approved date	

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1. Introduction and Policy Statement

Southbourne SLS club has a duty to have arrangements in place to ensure safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The club recognises that children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm or exploitation and that children cannot engage in club activities effectively unless they feel safe and secure.

Southbourne SLS club promotes a safe and secure environment with the knowledge that children's concerns will be listened to and acted upon. Committee members, staff and volunteers understand the importance of working in partnership with children, their parents/ carers and other agencies in order to promote children's welfare. This Safeguarding Policy applies to all committee members, volunteers and people using the club. Safeguarding is the responsibility of **all** adults and especially those working or volunteering with children. The club aims to help protect the children in its care by working consistently and appropriately with all agencies to reduce risk and promote the welfare of children.

The safeguarding officer will ensure that the club carries out its statutory duties to report suspected child abuse to the Local Authority Children's Services (Social Care) and to assist them in taking appropriate action on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse.

2. Purpose and Scope of this policy statement

The purpose of this statement is:

To protect children/young people and vulnerable adults who are members of Southbourne Surf Lifesaving Club from harm.

To provide coaches, volunteers, as well as children/young people, vulnerable adults and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to all members of Southbourne Surf Lifesaving Club.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England.

There are three main elements to the club's safeguarding policy:

1) PREVENTION

Positive and safe environment, careful and vigilant coaching, accessible trusted adults, support to children, good adult role models.

2) PROTECTION

Agreed procedures are followed, coaches and volunteers are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to safeguarding concerns.

3) SUPPORT

All members of the club should be able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. To children, who may have been at risk of significant harm

and the way members respond to their concerns and any work that may be required. All professionals work within the same safeguarding procedures.

3. We believe that:

Children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind.

We have a responsibility to promote welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

4. We recognise that:

The welfare of children/young people and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of adverse childhood experiences, their level of dependency, special educational needs, physical disability, mental health difficulties and other emotional/behavioural difficulties.

Working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The club is committed to ensuring that best practice is adopted when working with all children and young people, offering them support and protection and accepts that it has a legal and moral responsibility to implement procedures, to provide a duty of care for young people, to safeguard their well-being and to protect them from abuse.

5. We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Safeguarding Officer for children, young people and vulnerable adults within the club.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practices through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for all members
- Providing effective management for all volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- Selecting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via our website, posters, emails and group work
- Making sure that children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, vulnerable adult, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against volunteers appropriately.

- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any *bullying, peer on peer abuse or concerns of radicalisation*.
- Ensuring we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, vulnerable adults, volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Building a safeguarding culture where volunteers, children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

6. Contact Details:

- ❖ **Social Care referrals:** BCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 01202 735046
- ❖ **The Dorset Police Safeguarding Investigation Team:** Telephone 101 (switch board)
- ❖ **Club Safeguarding Officer :** Jessica Colacicco Tizzard. Email: jess@southbourne.org.uk

If you have concerns that a child is in immediate risk, please phone the police on 999.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required by legislation or in the event of a serious incident.

This policy was last reviewed on 20th October 2021

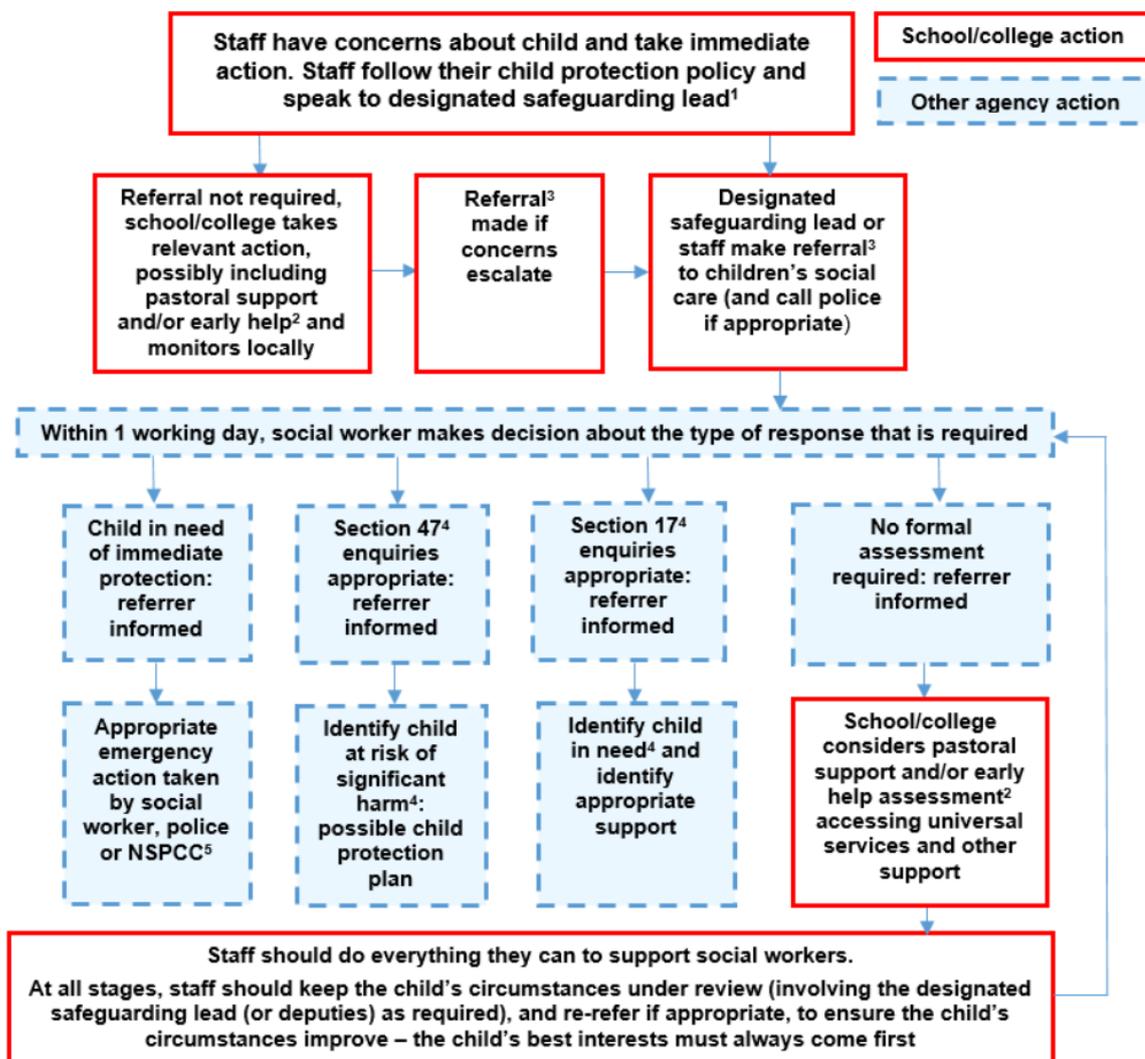
8. Supporting Documents:

- This policy should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:
- Club Rules
- Trainer's Local Operating Procedures
- Covid-19 Operating Policy and Procedure
- Data Protection Policy
- Role description for designated Safeguarding Officer
- ~~Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person~~
- ~~Managing allegations against volunteers~~
- ~~Recording concerns and information sharing~~
- ~~Child protection records retention and storage~~
- Code of conduct for volunteers
- Behaviour codes for children and young people
- ~~Photography and sharing images guidance~~
- ~~Safer recruitment for volunteers~~
- ~~Managing complaints~~
- ~~Whistleblowing~~
- Health and Safety Statement
- ~~Training, supervision and support~~
- ~~Adult to child supervision ratios~~

This policy has been drawn up with NSPCC, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) and SLSGB guidelines.

Appendix One: Action to take flowchart

Actions where there are concerns about a child



¹ In cases which also involve a concern or an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part Four of this guidance.

² Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) provides detailed guidance on the early help process.

³ Referrals should follow the process set out in the local threshold document and local protocol for assessment. Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

⁴ Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare. Full details are in Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

⁵ This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).