



Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

LBCC is committed to ensuring that everyone taking part in canoeing are 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.

DUTY OF CARE

We all have a duty with respect to safeguarding and protecting children and your people to ensure they can participate in and enjoy our sport with the highest possible standards of care.

All coaches and LBCC officials have a clear understanding of operating within a safeguarding framework. They are aware of their 'duty of care and how this relates to their position in providing activities and being responsible for others.

All Core Coaches are bound by the policies and guidelines set out for Coaches by British Canoeing. All of our Core Coaches, and many of our officials, have completed safeguarding training which is updated at regular intervals.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

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 well-being is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account. (Care Quality Commission 2015)

It relates to the need to protect those in vulnerable circumstances who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, due to the actions, or lack of action, of another person(s).

There is now a legal framework in place for safeguarding adults. The Care Act 2014, which took effect in April 2015, sets out the framework to be followed by all those with a responsibility for safeguarding adults.

REPORTING CONCERNS RELATING TO ADULTS

If an adult indicates that they are being abused, or information is received which gives rise to concern, the person receiving the information the following key points must be taken into account when reporting concerns :

- **Consent from the adult must be granted before reporting any concerns** (except for the exceptions listed below).
- **Must respect the decision of the adult.**
- **Must assume an adult has capacity unless proven otherwise***

The adult must be involved in any discussion and decision making process about their welfare (if they have capacity) and be given the opportunity to make their own choices, whether or not you consider these to be wise- ultimately an adult may choose not to act at all to protect themselves, and only in certain circumstances should their wish be overridden.

The exceptions that override the decision of the person are when:

1. **An adult is assessed not to have the 'capacity' to make their own decision (See below for more details on capacity).**
2. **When there is an overriding public duty to intervene due to others who may be at risk.**
3. **Where not acting would put the person at further risk of harm.**

If an adult is reluctant for you to report the concern and the above do not apply, explain the reasons why it may be in their best interests (and others) if the matter is referred. Ensure that they understand all the options available and empower them to make an informed decision.

REPORTING A CONCERN

- If the adult is in immediate risk of significant harm, call the police or Local Safeguarding Adults Board without delay.
- If consent is granted for you to refer the information received, contact your British Canoeing Safeguarding Officer and/ or Local Safeguarding Adults Social Care Team* with the details of the concern.
- If consent is not granted but you still have concerns, contact your Home Nation Safeguarding Officer who will be able to offer advice on what action should be taken. Wherever possible you should always explain and involve the adult concerned with what you plan to do and why.

*If you report a concern to your Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Board or Police you are also required to contact your Home Nation Safeguarding Officer to advise them of your concern and whom you have reported it to. A standard reporting form for this purpose is available from your Home Nation website.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Paddle UK Safeguarding Team on 01158655354 or safeguarding@paddleuk.org.uk. Paddle UK's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Joy Johnson

Central Bedfordshire Adult Services.

- **0300 300 8122** (Monday to Friday, 8:45am to 5:20pm)
- **0300 300 8123** (outside of these hours)
- email at adult.protection@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

This policy can be read in combination with the Paddle UK Policy here:

<https://paddleuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/shared-files/british-canoeing-central-documents/P6-Paddle-UK-SAFEGUARDING-ADULTS-POLICY-May-2024.pdf>

Reviewed by Club Welfare Officer

Date: 21-11-25

Fiona Barber

Approved by Chairperson
Nigel Dixon

Date 21-11-25

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