



Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

Safeguarding statement

Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club is committed to ensuring the safety of all children and young people taking part in canoeing, and are able to do so protected and kept safe from harm.

Safeguarding the process of protecting children and adults to provide safe and effective care. This includes all procedures designed to prevent harm to a child, and also encompasses child protection procedures that detail how to respond to concerns about a child. Safeguarding is a collective responsibility, meaning it is the duty of all organizations and individuals working with children to ensure their safety and well-being.

We **all** have a duty with respect to safeguarding and protecting children and young 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 what their 'duty of care' is 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.

Child Protection

The welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting a child from abuse. Everyone in Paddlesport can help - administrator, club official, coach, parent, friend and children themselves.

These safeguarding and child protection procedures stem from the following principles:

- The child's welfare is paramount.
- Anyone under the age of 18 is classed as a child.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, marital status, pregnancy, maternity and sexual orientation have a right to be protected from abuse.
- To respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of young people in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Coaches, clubs and centres need to be provided with advice to raise awareness of best practice and guidance and support should they become involved in an abuse situation.

LBCC recognises that some children and young people may have additional vulnerabilities or are disadvantaged by their experiences. It is important all those who work with children and young people are vigilant in creating a safe culture and are aware of those who may have additional vulnerabilities.

Indicators of Abuse

There are physical and behavioural signs that might raise your concern about the welfare or safety of a child. They are only indicators - not confirmation.

Some examples are: Where the child,

- Says that she/ he is being abused, or another person says they believe (or actually know) that abuse is occurring.
- Has an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent.
- Behaviour changes, either over time or quite suddenly, becoming aggressive, withdrawn or unhappy.
- Appears not to trust adults, e.g. a parent or coach with whom she/ he would be expected to have, or once had, a close relationship.
- Shows inappropriate sexual awareness for his/ her age and sometimes behaves in a sexually explicit way.
- Becomes increasingly neglected looking in appearance, or loses or puts on weight for no apparent reason.

Bear in mind that some children can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and may have added difficulties in communicating what is happening to them.

What to do if you have a concern

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child please remember the golden rule

It is not your responsibility to decide whether a child is being abused - but it is your responsibility to pass the information on to the appropriate person.

If you are a member, or the parent/carer or friend of a member of a canoe club/centre you should:

- Tell the person appointed for safeguarding; this is normally the Club Welfare Officer. At an event tell the person responsible for safeguarding (Event Welfare Officer) or the event organiser - unless, of course you suspect them of being involved OR
- Contact the home nation Safeguarding Lead Officer listed at the end of this policy OR
- If you need urgent advice contact the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hours Help Line 0808 800 5000

If you are the person responsible for safeguarding children at your organisation you can:

- Talk to the child's parents/carers about the concerns if you think there may be an obvious explanation such as a bereavement or pressure from their studies/exams.
- If you need urgent advice contact the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hours Help Line. Contact your local social services department or, in an emergency, the Police.

LBCC Club Welfare Officer has developed the **Recognise, Respond and Report Concerns visual (Figure 1)** *This flow chart is a simple guide to help everyone in the club know what steps to take if they're ever worried about something or someone.*

This visual was developed in consultation with junior club members and feedback from adult club members. A copy of this visual is displayed in the club house.

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/P1-Paddle-UK-Safeguarding-Children-Policy-January-2023.pdf>

Reviewed by Club Welfare Officer

Date: 21-11-25

Fiona Barber

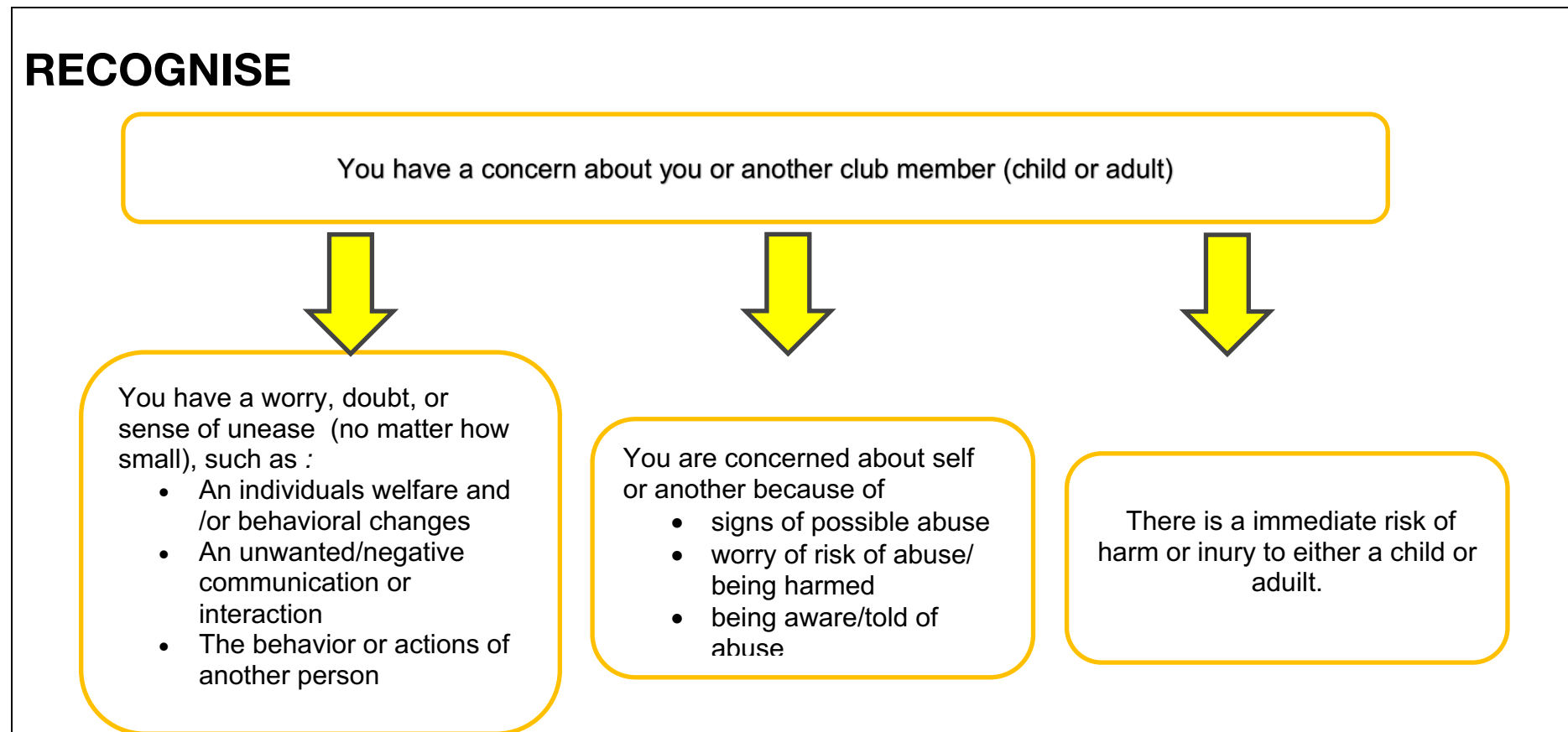
Approved by Chairperson
Nigel Dixon

Date 21-11-25

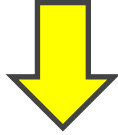
Review Date November 2027

Figure 1: Recognise, Respond and Report Concerns

This flow chart is a simple guide to help everyone in the club know what steps to take if they're ever worried about something or someone.



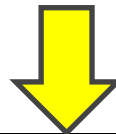
RESPOND



It is essential that everyone at LBCC feels able to raise and report lower-level concerns or even a sense of unease without hesitation. Early action can prevent harm and protect everyone involved.

⚠ It is essential that you pass on any information or concerns so that an appropriate safeguarding response can be taken to protect the safety and wellbeing of all our club members.

Call the emergency services (on 999 or 112) immediately to ensure the safety and protection of the individual



REPORT

**You can talk to a LBCC Coach / Instructor or Paddler Rep.
You can speak to your Club Welfare Officer or share your concerns in writing by email :
clubwelfareofficer@lbcc.org.uk**

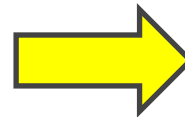


**Any report or concerns are passed on to the Club Welfare Officer confidentially.
You can trust the adults to deal with your concern and you do not need to share with others around**



What happens next ?

- All reports are handled confidentially and professionally
- The LBCC Club Welfare Officer will assess the situation, decide next steps and required action.



If you are still concerned?

Contact Paddle UK **01158655354**
NSPCC Help Line **0808 800 5000**
Central Bedfordshire Council
Safeguarding team:
0300 300 8585