

Staffordshire County Scouts



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This plan is produced for use within Staffordshire County, together with Districts and Groups within the County; it outlines our approach to implementing the Scout Association's Child Protection Policy. This plan explains The Scout Association's Policy and outlines its implementation; it does not replace it.

The Child Protection Policy

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from 'physical, sexual and emotional harm'

Accordingly The Scout Association is committed to:

1. taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of young people;
2. respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom it is working;
3. taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse;
4. promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.

Responsibilities within the Child Protection Policy

- a. All adults aged 18 or over within Scouting are responsible for the operation of the Association's Child Protection Policy.
- b. It is the responsibility of all adults to ensure that:
 1. their behaviour is appropriate at all times;
 2. they observe the rules established for the safety and security of young people;
 3. they follow the procedures following suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse;
 4. they recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed;
 5. in every respect, the relationships they form with the young people under their care are appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Initial training

All adults who become involved in Scouting, in any capacity, should be given a copy of The Scout Association's Young People First Policy (the 'Yellow Card') and have it explained to them. This is the responsibility of the person inviting the adult to become involved, unless other local arrangements are in place.

Child protection training

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE is a Scout Association approved modular training programme developed in partnership with the NSPCC. The programme provides adults with an awareness of their responsibilities when working with young people in Scouting.

All existing Warranted Leaders are to undertake the 'Keeping Children Safe' modular training programme. This is identified in the Adults Personal Learning Plan, and counts as 3 hours ongoing learning.

The County has made a provision within its budget over 3 years to pay for 'Keeping Children Safe' for all existing Warranted Leaders; this will be reviewed in September 2006.

The County Executive, together with the agreement of District Commissioners and District Chairs, have decided that all Warranted Adults are required to complete 'Keeping Children

Safe' prior to renewal of their appointment, *or having completed 'Keeping Children Safe' at subsequent reviews of appointment they will be required to attend a County Child Protection Workshop- (Working Safely with Young People).*

All new Leaders are to be registered for 'Keeping Children Safe' by their Training Advisor as part of 'Getting Started'. The relevant Local Training Manager, under the guidance of the County Training Manager, is responsible for ensuring that existing and newly appointed TAs are aware of this requirement.

Chairs, Secretaries, and Treasurers and non-warranted Adults are also *encouraged* to complete 'Keeping Children Safe'; County will pay for County & District appointments, and Groups are encouraged to fund the participation of their own personnel.

The County Office manages the 'Keeping Children Safe' Programme in Staffordshire, and all applications should be forwarded to the County Secretary, Kibblestone International Scout Camp, Oulton, Nr Stone, ST15 8UJ.

Ongoing training

It is the joint responsibility of the District Commissioner and the Child Protection Co-ordinator to arrange ongoing training in Child Protection for adults within each District to ensure all adults are kept adequately informed of their responsibilities, changes in policy and other relevant matters.

Explorer Scout Young Leaders

The Child Protection Co-ordinator is available to assist the DESC and Explorer Leaders in delivering appropriate training to Explorer Scout Young Leaders.

Appointment procedures and sub-committee

The Chairs of District Executive Committees are responsible for ensuring that all appointments are to be made using the correct appointment procedure.

District Chairs are also responsible for ensuring that all Appointment sub Committees are correctly constituted, taking into account best practise - as identified by The Scout Association.

During late 2005 and 2006, training will be given to all Districts in the appointment process and the constitution of the Appointments sub-Committee.

Concerns and issues

The Scout Association has established procedures for dealing with allegations or suspicions of abuse, which are published by Headquarters. Relevant Commissioners are responsible for ensuring that they follow these procedures in the event of an allegation or suspicion of abuse being referred to them. In circumstances where the District Commissioner is responsible, a Deputy District Commissioner or the County Commissioner may act in their absence.

In the event that allegations or suspicions of abuse directly involve a District Commissioner or Deputy District Commissioner the matter must be passed immediately to the County Commissioner. In the event that an allegation or suspicion of abuse directly involves the County Commissioner, Headquarters must be informed immediately.

The responsible Commissioner will be responsible for managing local Scouting's response to Child Protection incidents, with the guidance of the Field Development Officer and the supporting Commissioner. In any situation where there is doubt as to whether the Association's procedures should be used, contact must be made immediately with the County Commissioner, the Field Development Officer or (exceptionally) the Child Protection Department at Gilwell Park (0845 300 1818).

Role of the Child Protection Co-ordinator

The County is obliged to designate one or more Child Protection Co-ordinators, who will be responsible for advising the County Commissioner and the County Executive Committee on the implementation of the Association's Child Protection Policy within the County. To this

end the County Child Protection Co-ordinator is an invited member of the County Executive Committee.