

Abergele Bowling Club
Safeguarding Adults Policy

February 2023

Introduction

Abergele Bowling Club is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines.

We will safeguard adults by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe.

Abergele BC is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how adult abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.

Abergele BC is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Policy Statement

We believe everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

We acknowledge that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved.

We recognise that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.

We recognise that there is a legal framework within which sports need to work to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect themselves and will act in accordance with the

relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Actions taken by us will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of **Abergele BC** to safeguarding adults and to ensure that everyone involved in **Abergele BC** is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult within the organisation.

Scope

This safeguarding adult policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in Abergele BC including Board members, Coaches, Volunteers and Members and to all concerns about the safety of adults whilst taking part in our organisation, its activities and in the wider community.

We expect our partner organisations, to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice as set out in this Safeguarding Adults Policy and associated procedures.

Commitments

In order to implement this policy Abergele BC will ensure that:

- Everyone involved with Abergele BC is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Any concern that an adult is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with Abergele BC Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.
- The well-being of those at risk of harm will be put first and the adult actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to (see the Safeguarding Adults Procedures).

- Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our Data Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Abergele BC acts in accordance with best practice advice, for example, from Sport Wales, WCGBA, BCGBA National Governing Bodies, NSPCC.
- Abergele BC will cooperate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard an adult.
- All Board members understand their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults and have completed and are up to date with safeguarding adult training and learning opportunities appropriate for their role.
- Abergele BC uses safe recruitment practices and continually assesses the suitability of volunteers and staff to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals in this organisation and within the sporting community.
- Abergele BC shares information about anyone found to be a risk to adults with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Services, Police, Local Authority/Social Services
- Actions taken under this policy are reviewed by the safeguarding officer on a three yearly basis.

Implementation

Abergele BC is committed to developing and maintaining its capability to implement this policy and procedures.

In order to do so the following will be in place:

- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for the safety and welfare of all adults.
- Access to relevant professional advice.
- Safeguarding adult procedures that deal effectively with any concerns of abuse or neglect, including those caused through poor practice.
- A Safeguarding Officer
- A delegated Safeguarding Officer for events/trips/camps/ competitions.

- Arrangements to work effectively with other relevant organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults, including arrangements for sharing information.
- Codes of conduct for Members and other relevant individuals that specify zero tolerance of abuse in any form.
- Risk assessments that specifically include safeguarding of adults.
- Policies and procedures that address the following areas and which are consistent with this Safeguarding Adults policy.

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| ✓ Safeguarding Children | ✓ Concerns, Complaints and Compliments |
| ✓ Bullying and harassment | ✓ Whistleblowing |
| ✓ Social Media | ✓ Safe recruitment and selection (staff and volunteers) |
| ✓ Equality, diversity and inclusion | ✓ Information policy, data protection and information sharing |
| ✓ Safe activities risk assessments | |
| ✓ Code of Conducts and a process for breach of these Members | |
| ✓ Discipline and grievance | |

Abuse and Neglect

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. It can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it. Any or all of the following types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence, omission or ignorance.

There are different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and different circumstances in which they may take place.

Safeguarding legislation in each home nation lists categories of abuse differently however, they all include the following types of abuse:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Neglect
- Financial

Abuse can take place in any relationship and there are many contexts in which abuse might take place; e.g. Institutional abuse, Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Radicalisation, Hate Crime, Mate Crime, Cyber bullying, Scams. Some of these are named specifically within home nation legislations.

Abuse can take place within a sporting context and the person causing harm might be

any other person. For example: a member of staff, a coach, a volunteer, a participant or a fan.

Some examples of abuse within sport include:

- Harassment of a participant because of their (perceived) disability or other protected characteristics.
- Not meeting the needs of the participant e.g. training without a necessary break.
- One elite participant controlling another athlete with threats of withdrawal from their partnership
- An official who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to a participant with learning disabilities.
- A participant threatens another participant with physical harm and persistently blames them for poor performance.

Abuse or neglect outside sport could be carried out by:

- A spouse, partner or family member
- Neighbours or residents
- Friends, acquaintances or strangers
- People who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable
- Paid staff, professionals or volunteers providing care and support

Often the perpetrator is known to the adult and may be in a position of trust and/or power.

Signs and Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

An adult may confide to a member that they are experiencing abuse inside or outside of the organisation's setting. Similarly, others may suspect that this is the case.

There are many signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or neglected. There may be other explanations, but they should not be ignored. The signs and symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Unexplained bruises or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present.
- Person has belongings or money going missing.
- Person is not attending / no longer enjoying their sessions. You may notice that a participant in a team has been missing from practice sessions and is not responding to reminders from team members or coaches.
- Someone losing or gaining weight / an unkempt appearance. This could be a player whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable sports kit and there is a deterioration in hygiene.
- A change in the behaviour or confidence of a person. For example,

a participant may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile.

- Self-harm.
- A fear of a particular group of people or individual.

- A parent/carer always speaks for the person and doesn't allow them to make their own choices
- They may tell you / another person they are being abused – i.e. a disclosure

Judy Hughes

Safeguarding Officer Abergele BC

Safeguarding Officer Glyndwr

Safeguarding officer WCGBA

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