

STOCKSBRIDGE COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE

Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

Policy statement

Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre believes that no child or young person should ever experience any type of abuse. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice this in a way that protects children and young people who use our facilities. The definition of a child covered by this policy is classed as a person under the age of 18 years of age.

This policy applies to all staff, including managers, directors, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and young people who come to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre for our organised activities or who use our centre for external group activities. This includes the children who attend with a parent/guardian or other family member.
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protecting.
- Ensure that children and young people do not feel uncomfortable whilst using our facilities
- Ensure children, young people, staff, volunteers or external group leaders and staff know who Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre's DSO is and how to contact them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or transgender, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- All our staff and volunteers should undertake a safeguarding course to ensure that people are aware and understand the policies and procedures reporting any alleged incidents or anything witnessed and that all information is kept strictly confidential.
- Staff or volunteers must not get changed in the same area as the children when supervising. The staff changing room must be used under these circumstances.

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

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Adhering to the Act's and Policy's listed in this document
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Ensuring all Staff, volunteers, trainees, and outside hires have all received an enhanced DBS check done and verified by our senior staff.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to manage any allegations made against members of staff or volunteers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and a procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise on our premises.

- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, staff and volunteers by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Implementing safety procedures for children and young people using our centres changing facilities and showers.

Guidance for areas of potential risk:

- Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult in our changing facilities.
- Children under the age of 8 who attend session must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or member of staff from their club.
- Children over the age of 8 years are permitted to use the toilets and changing facilities unaccompanied with their parent's acknowledgement to any potential risks.
- Children who use Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre with school must use separate changing facilities from the general public. The school staff are responsible for provide supervision of their students at all times.
- We acknowledge that some of our customers choose do not use the changing room cubicles we highly recommend that all our customers use cubicles to avoid any potential safeguarding issues.
- We acknowledge that our customers make full use of our shower facilities and recommend that people use a towel when exiting the showers to their changing cubicle to avoid any potential safeguarding issues.
- We acknowledge that people may wish to take photos of their children within Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre. However, our policy strictly forbids photographs to be taken without consent of the centre and the child's parents/guardian.
- There may be occasion when a member of the opposite sex will need to access the changing facilities for cleaning purposes, maintenance or repair work. We will ensure signage is up to notify our customers of this on these rare occasions.
- Remind customers that mobile phone usage is not permitted in the changing facilities or within the pool area.

Reporting a safeguarding matter

In the event of a safeguarding matter being brought to your attention or if you observe or suspect a safeguarding issue, you should formally report this to the Safeguarding Officer.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of guidance contained in the following documents that seeks to protect children namely:

- Children Act 1989
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- SCLC Photography Policy
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Contact Details

Designated Safeguarding Officer: Andy Clarke

Email: business@4slc.org.uk

Chief Executive: Andrew Clarke

Email: business@4slc.org.uk

Other useful contacts

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection)

www.ceop.police.uk

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

Sheffield Safeguarding Hub: 0114 273 4855

Children and Young People's Social Care: Tel: (0114) 273 4855

24 hours a day, 7 days a week