

Kendal Bridge Club CIO

Safeguarding and Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy

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Definition of vulnerability

"Vulnerable Adults" includes any adults who, because of mental, emotional or physical infirmity, are more vulnerable to harm or abuse than the generality of adult players. For the purposes of child protection legislation the term 'child' refers to anyone up to the age of 18 years.

Definition of safeguarding

The Charity Commission website defines safeguarding as:

- all agencies working with children, young people and their families taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised; and
- where there are concerns about children and young people's welfare, all agencies taking appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies.

Concerns may be related to physical, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse or harm.

Context

This policy is to be considered alongside the clubs existing policy on 'Equality and Diversity' and the Club's 'Health and Safety Policy'

Kendal Bridge Club CIO activities may involve contact with children and or vulnerable adults as learners, players, employees and as members. The Club currently employs young people to prepare refreshments.

Policy

1. The welfare of the child is paramount; and all children and vulnerable adults without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
2. The policy applies to all club members employees and visiting players who may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults.
3. Whenever a child or vulnerable adult joins Kendal Bridge Club CIO or is employed by the Club, the individual, the parent or guardian of the child, or the principle carer of a vulnerable adult, will be informed of the safeguarding policy and procedures.
4. All concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, employees and members and responded to appropriately.
5. The trustees of Kendal Bridge Club CIO have made a commitment to safe recruitment, selection and vetting; and to principles, legislation and guidance that underpin the policy; and undertake to conduct an annual review of the safeguarding policy and procedures.
6. The Club and its members will comply with all relevant current and future legislation.

Procedures

1. The Kendal Bridge Club CIO trustees shall appoint a Child Protection Officer (CPO) and a Deputy CPO and report to the Annual General Meeting. The identity of the CPO should be listed on the Kendal Bridge Club CIO web site.
2. The Kendal Bridge Club CIO trustees shall agree a defined role and responsibilities with the CPO.

3. The trustees, in collaboration with the CPO, shall produce guidance on confidentiality and information sharing, and legislation compliance.
4. The trustees, in collaboration with the CPO, shall produce a code of behaviour for trustees, members and visitors, including disciplinary and grievance procedures.
5. The trustees, in collaboration with the CPO will ensure DBS checks are conducted on the CPO, Deputy CPO and any member who may have direct contact with children or vulnerable adults.
6. The trustees, in collaboration with the CPO, shall produce a complaints procedure which is an open and well publicised way in which adults and children can voice concerns about unacceptable and/or abusive behaviour.
7. The CPO and Deputy CPO shall have completed a recognised course in child protection and safeguarding.

Code of behaviour

1 No member of Kendal Bridge Club CIO should be in sole charge of a child or vulnerable adult except with the knowledge of the Kendal Bridge Club CPO and trustees.

2. DBS checks will be carried out in the light of current legislation and regulation of those who may be in sole charge of a child or vulnerable adult.

3. Any Kendal Bridge Club CIO member, visitor or employee who has concerns about potential risks to a minor or a vulnerable player should report their concerns to the CPO immediately.

- a. The CPO must respond in accordance to the nature of the concern and where appropriate communicate any concerns to the Kendal Bridge Club CIO Chairman and Secretary.
- b. Unless directly involved The Chairman, Secretary and CPO must investigate the concerns .
- c. Any decision on further action should be taken after discussion with the relevant authorities.

The Role of Child Protection Officer. (CPO)

The person in this role is responsible for:

- Receiving and acting upon any reported concerns with a clear knowledge of forms of abuse and how to respond to it.

Ensuring all members are familiar with, and adhere to the Safeguarding and Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy

- This includes inducting new members and visitors.
- Ensuring the Policy is implemented and promoted.
- Promoting best safeguarding practice across the wider partnership network.

Acting as a first point of contact for Kendal Bridge Club on issues of Safeguarding and Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults , both internally, and for members of the public and other external contacts.

- Representing the key link to statutory agencies (Social Care or Police) during and following formal investigations.
- Maintaining and updating the Policy.
- Keeping an up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the area of child protection and safeguarding, including attending and/or carrying out appropriate training.
- Ensuring all relevant information around Child Protection is communicated to the Members.
- Providing guidance on relevant matters to the Trustees, and to club members, as appropriate.
- Securely storing records of any concerns.
- Advocating the importance of Child Protection to members and visitors.
- Ensuring that when absent from the club for any significant period, that the role of CPO is suitably covered by the Deputy CPO.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees at their 1st meeting after 1st June 2017