



CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT FOR DONNINGTON PARTNERSHIP CIO (also referred to as Donnington partnership)

CHILD PROTECTION REPRESENTATIVES: Rose Gregory

Any organisation providing services or activities for children and young people under the age of 18 must have a Child Protection Statement. This is a statement of intent that demonstrates a commitment to safeguard children involved in this project from harm. Donnington Partnership has a legal and moral duty to create and maintain the safest possible environment for children and young people to enjoy sports, arts and other recreational, social and leisure pursuits provided by our organisation. We have a Child Protection Statement and reporting procedure in place, as well as a designated Child Protection representative.

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure that all staff and volunteers working with children and young people are carefully selected, understand and accept responsibility for the safety of children and young people in their care.
2. To raise awareness of protection issues amongst community voluntary groups, clubs and organisations that offer recreational activities.
3. To ensure that the child's welfare is of paramount importance, regardless of age, gender, ability or race, when planning, organising, advising on and delivering activities.
4. To respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and to ensure confidential information is restricted to the appropriate external agencies.
5. To monitor and review the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis.

A child protection statement makes it clear to all what is required in relation to the protection of children and young people.

The Child Protection Representative must ensure that all staff and volunteers have read and understood this policy.

Date the Statement was Read

Sign	Print name	Date
	Jane Hassall	
	Ian Harvey	
	Rose Gregory	
	Mas Sowak	
	Sharon Watkins	
	Richard Overton	
	Darran Hassall	
	Heather Cooper	



Child Protection Policy for Donnington Partnership

This document is the Child Protection Policy for Donnington Partnership, which will be followed by all members of the organisation and followed and promoted by those in the position of leadership within the organisation.

1. Aim of Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure the safety of children and young people by making sure that the actions of any adult in the context of the work carried out by the organisation are transparent and safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people.

2. Responsibilities

All individuals within the organisation have a responsibility to be aware of this policy and to be clear about procedures for reporting any suspicions that they might have concerning child protection.

Individuals within the organisation need to be alert to the potential abuse of children both within their families and also from other sources including abuse by members of that organisation. There is an expected responsibility for all members of the organisation to respond to any suspected or actual abuse of a child in accordance with these procedures.

If any parent or young person/child has any concerns about the conduct of any member of the organisation, this should be raised in the first instance with the organisations designated child protection representative.

3. Principles upon which the Child Protection Policy is based.

- The welfare of a child or young person will always be paramount.
- The welfare of families will be promoted.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families will be respected and listened to.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the organisation will work in accordance with the interests of children and young people and follow the policy outlined below.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the organisation will ensure that the same opportunities are available to everyone and that all differences between individuals will be treated with respect.

4. What is abuse?

There are four primary categories of child abuse:

4.1 Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms, of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using terms such as, fabricated illness by proxy or Munchausen Syndrome by proxy.

4.2 Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child though it may occur alone.

4.3 Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. This may include non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

4.4 Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

5. Code of Conduct

- 1) Make sure all members of the executive committee, staff and volunteers have read and understand the Child Protection Policy and Procedure to report child protection cases appropriately.
- 2) Ensure that all staff and volunteers who work with or have responsibility for, children and young people are checked by the disclosure+ barring source DBS..
- 3) To exercise a "*Duty of Care*". If staff/volunteers have concerns about the possible abuse of a child or young person, or where a disclosure has been made, this must be reported as a *Duty of Care* responsibility.
- 4) To ensure staff and volunteers who work with or have responsibility for children and young people are supervised during a designated probationary period with ongoing regular supervision opportunities.
- 5) Staff and volunteers must ensure that the safety of children and young people in their care is maintained at all times.
- 6) Ensure activities with children and young people involve more than one adult being present or at least within sight or hearing of others.
- 7) Be aware of the possible implications of physical contact with young people (dancing/games).
- 8) Seek the permission of parent/ guardian before using photographs/ images of children and young people.
- 9) Remember someone might misinterpret your actions and your comments no matter how well intentioned.
- 10) Treat everyone with respect. Don't promise confidentiality when it cannot be upheld.

- 11) Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes and behaviour they do not like.
- 12) Create an environment where young people are encouraged to talk about themselves, their lives and any concerns they may have – listen to them.
- 13) Recognise that caution is required even in sensitive moments of counselling, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse.
- 14) Provide an example you wish others to follow.
- 15) Respect rights to personal privacy.
- 16) Ensure that there is separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and male and female young people on residentials and ensure all reasonable precautions are taken to protect young people from 'outsiders'.

DO NOT

- 17) Permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying and racial taunts).
- 18) Jump to conclusions.
- 19) Allow yourself to be drawn into any inappropriate attention seeking behaviour by young people such as tantrums or crushes. Think about your own behaviour.
- 20) Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- 21) Show favouritism to any individual.
- 22) Make suggestive remarks or gestures.
- 23) Rely on your good name to protect you.
- 24) Believe 'it couldn't ever happen to me' (both dealing with abuse or being accused of).
- 25) Take children to your home or on a car journey, however short.
- 26) Add children or young people to any social networking sites that you belong to.
- 27) DO NOT APPROACH A SUSPECTED ABUSER YOURSELF.

6. What to do if children talk to you about, or you suspect, abuse

IN ALL CASES IT IS VITAL TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, i.e.

- ★ In emergency situations (e.g. where there is the risk or occurrence of severe physical injury), where immediate action is needed to safeguard the health or safety of the child or anyone else who may be at risk, the emergency services must be contacted by dialling 999.
 - ★ In non-emergency situations contact the child protection representative and if this person is not available, contact the Family connect on **01952 385385**. Or outside of normal working hours **01952 676500**
- a) The child protection representative should make a written record of the allegation or suspicion of abuse and contact Family connect on **01952 385385** Or outside of normal working hours **01952 676500** - see *Child/ Vulnerable adult incident report form*
 - b) The child protection representative will liaise with the relevant agencies and forward the record of concern for information. A copy should be kept on file to which designated representatives *only* have access.

- c) If an allegation is made to a volunteer/staff member or there is a suspicion of abuse then the volunteer/staff member should inform the child protection representative as soon as possible. Do tell any staff/volunteer workers they will be given support and afforded protection.

DO

1. Treat any allegations extremely seriously and act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying.
2. Listen carefully to the child.
3. Tell the child they are right to tell you.
4. Reassure them that they are not to blame.
5. Be honest about your own position, who you have to tell and why.
6. Tell the child what you are doing and when, and keep them up to date with what is happening.
7. Take further action – you may be the only person in a position to prevent further abuse – tell your Child Protection Representative immediately.
8. Write down everything factually, that was said and done includes time + date plus sign it.

DO NOT

1. Make promises you cannot keep.
2. Directly question the child – it is not your job to carry out an investigation. This will be up to the Police and Social Services, which have experience of this.
3. Cast doubts on what the child has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject.
4. Say anything that makes the child feel responsible for the abuse.
5. Do nothing – make sure you tell your Child Protection Representative immediately.

Remember, you always have a duty to make sure concerns are reported, so that appropriate action can be taken.

If there is any doubt about whether or not to report an issue to the relevant authorities then it should be reported.

Tell your Child Protection Representative, he/she will be able to get further advice and/or refer the situation to Social Services or the Police.

If for any reason you cannot tell the Child Protection Representative, they may be on leave or the disclosure may concern them, then you should contact the Family Connect **01952 385385** Or outside of normal working hours **01952 676500**

It is important for staff and volunteers to avoid making assumptions and discussing concerns indiscriminately.

Confidentiality, and respect for the child involved, is of the utmost importance.

7. Keeping a record

Information required

In the event of suspected child abuse or disclosure from a child be prepared to give as much of the following information as possible (in emergency situations all of this information may not be available). Unavailability of some information should not stop you making a referral.

- Name of child.
- Parent's/ carer's details.

- The child's address.
- Relevant phone numbers.
- What is said to have happened, or what was seen.
- When it occurred.
- Who else was present?
- What was said by those involved?
- Whether there was any actual evidence, e.g. bruises, bleeding or changed behaviour.
- Who has been told about it?
- Who was concerned?
- Was the child able to say what happened into must be stored securely?

8. Recruitment and Training

Donnington Partnership will ensure that all staff and volunteers whose roles include working with vulnerable adults are carefully selected, CRB checked, trained and supervised.

Volunteers will have a supervised probationary period of three months with regular supervision thereafter.

9. Monitoring

Donnington partnership CIO will review the effectiveness of this child protection policy on an annual basis (or more regularly if we identify any non-compliance or problem concerning child protection issue). We will take remedial action if we discover non-compliance under this policy or barriers to its implementation.

10. Local Contacts

Contact the Child Protection Team on **01952 385385**

*If you have a concern that requires advice before action is taken out of 'normal working hours' then contact the Emergency Duty Team on **01952 676500** or contact West Mercia Police on **101 or 0300 333 0000**

This policy was adopted by Donnington Partnership Executive Committee

Signed:.....on behalf of the Donnington Partnership Executive Committee

Position.....Chair..... Date.....

Useful Contacts/Numbers

NSPCC Helpline–0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline – 08001111

Telford & Wrekin Council – for advice, guidance or referral.

Contact during 0900 and 1700:

Family Connect and Adult Safeguarding Team - **01952 385385**

Contact out of 'normal working hours'

The Emergency Duty Team on **01952 676500**

*Or If you believe a criminal offence has been committed contact West Mercia Police **101 or 0300 333 0000 and in an emergency contact 999***

Reports can also be made online via www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk

CRB checks can be carried out by:

Acorn Direct http: www.acorndirect.org.uk

The Criminal Records Bureaux – www.disclosure.gov.uk