

ST. JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB – WOKINGHAM

Safeguarding policy

1. Definition

St. John's Scottish Country Dancing Club – Wokingham, (hereinafter referred to as the "Club") acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

2. Aims

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances.

It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all:

- (a) have a positive and enjoyable experience of all activities of the Club
- (b) are protected from abuse whilst participating in activities of the Club

3. Obligations

The Club acknowledges that some children and vulnerable adults, including the disabled or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy the Club will:

- (a) promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults
- (b) ensure everyone understands they have a role to play in respect of safeguarding and are resolved to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns
- (c) ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern
- (d) ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- (e) prevent the inclusion of unsuitable individuals in Club activities
- (f) ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation

This policy will be widely promoted and is mandatory for everyone involved in the Club. Failure to comply with the policy will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in exclusion from the organisation.

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4. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of Safeguarding Officer is performed by the Chairman.

All those partaking in Club activities have a role to play in recognising, identifying and responding to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns.

Any such concerns must be reported to the Safeguarding Officer. If they are not available then report to a Committee Member who will inform the Safeguarding Officer.

The Safeguarding Officer will investigate the matter. If the matter is deemed to be of a more serious nature or cannot be resolved within the Club, then the police and/or other agencies may be informed.

Any reports will be held in the strictest confidence and any records will be securely stored.

Any of the above does not preclude an individual from taking their concerns directly to an outside agency.

5. Updates

The policy will be updated in light of the following:

- (a) changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- (b) as a result of any other significant change or event.