

# **Slip End Playing Field Management Committee & The Peter Edwards Hall Safeguarding Policy – May 2025**

**This policy relates ONLY to events organised and run by Slip End Playing Field Management Committee – other users including regular users and individual hall hirers must have their own Safeguarding Policy in place when dealing with children, young people and vulnerable adults.**

## **Introduction**

Slip End Playing Field Management Committee believes that all members, volunteers, and trustees have the right to feel safe in their environment and/or with the people with whom they interact. It is the responsibility of every trustee and adult volunteer to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual, or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

## **What is Abuse?**

Abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children, young people or vulnerable adults are harmed, usually by adults but sometimes by peers. Often these are people they know or trust. It refers to the damage done to a child's, young persons, or vulnerable adult's physical, mental, or emotional health. Children, young people, or vulnerable adults can be abused within or outside their family, at school and within other contexts. Abusive situations arise when adults or peers misuse their power over children, young people, or vulnerable adults.

There are 5 main forms of abuse: -

## **Physical Abuse**

Hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting, or burning.

Giving children, young people and vulnerable adults alcohol, cigarettes, inappropriate drugs, or poison.

Attempting to suffocate or drown children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Using excessive and inappropriate punishments.

## **Neglect**

Includes situations in which: -

A child's, young person's or vulnerable adult's basic health and physical needs (e.g. for food, warm clothing) are not met. Children, young people and vulnerable adults are consistently left alone and unsupervised.

Failure to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults are safe, not exposed to undue extremes of weather or risk of injury e.g. through unsafe equipment, or lack of adequate risk assessment on club trips.

## **Sexual Abuse**

Where adults/peers use children, young people and vulnerable adults to meet their own sexual needs through:

- Full sexual intercourse or other sexual acts.  
Showing them pornographic books, photographs or videos or taking photographs for pornographic purposes.
- Inappropriate discussion of sexual matters.
- Excessive affection.

## **Emotional Abuse**

Persistent lack of love, affection or attention shown to a child, young person, and vulnerable adult within their family.

Overprotecting and preventing them from socialising.

Children, young people and vulnerable adults being frequently shouted at, taunted or humiliated.

## **Bullying**

This is not always easy to define and can take many forms and is usually repeated over a period. There are 3 main types of bullying: -

Physical (Hitting, kicking or theft)

Verbal (Racist or homophobic remarks, threats and name calling)  
Emotional (Isolating an individual from activities)

**Indications that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be being abused**

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
- Any injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent.
- A child or adult expressing concern about the welfare of another child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- Unexplained changes in behaviour e.g. becoming noticeably quiet, withdrawn, or displaying sudden outbursts of temper.
- Sexual awareness, inappropriate for age.
- Being mistrustful of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Having difficulties in making friends.
- Loss of weight for no apparent reason.
- Becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt.

**Code of Conduct for Trustees and all adult volunteers involved with all children, young people and vulnerable adults coming to the Slip End Playing Field or joining in events run by Slip End Playing Field**

- All trustees and adult volunteers must respect the rights, dignity, privacy and worth of each child/young person/vulnerable adult equally within the context of the club and its activities.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must place the well being and safety of each child/young person/vulnerable adult above all other considerations.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must adhere to all guidelines laid down by the club in relation to the care and welfare of children/young people/vulnerable adult/s.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must develop an appropriate working relationship with each child/young person/vulnerable adult based on mutual trust and respect.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must not exert undue influence on any child/young person/vulnerable adult to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must encourage and guide any child/young person/vulnerable adult to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must ensure that the activities they direct, or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of children/young person's/vulnerable adults.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must co-operate fully with each other in the best interests of the child/young person/vulnerable adult.
- Trustees and adult volunteers must always promote the positive aspects of the club and never condone violations of the club rules or code of conduct

- Trustees and adult volunteers must themselves consistently adhere to high standards of behaviour and reliability,

### **Trustees and Adult Volunteers Protection**

It is possible to reduce situations in which abuse can occur and help protect trustees and adult volunteers by promoting good practice. Always be public and open when working with young people. Avoid situations where you and an individual member are completely unobserved.

All trustees, members and adult volunteers should also be aware that they should not: -

- Spend excessive amounts of time alone with individual children/young person's/vulnerable adults.
- Take children/young person's/vulnerable adults alone on car journeys, however short \*
- Take children/young person's/vulnerable adults to their home where they will be alone.

\*If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable, they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of the parents and with the knowledge and approval of other trustees and adult volunteers.

Trustees and adult volunteers should never: -

- Allow or engage in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Share a bedroom alone with a child/young person/vulnerable adult on any overnight trips.
- Allow or engage in any form of touching. *(Common sense should be exercised in dealing with injured children/young person's/vulnerable adults in distress)*
- Allow children/young person's/vulnerable adults to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive or inappropriate comments to a child/young person/vulnerable adult, even in jest.
- Allow allegations made by a child/young person/vulnerable adult to go unchallenged, unrecorded, or not acted upon.
- Do things of a personal nature for children/young person's/vulnerable adults they can do for themselves e.g. helping them dress.
- Invite or allow children/young person's/vulnerable adults to stay with you at your home without the knowledge and permission of the Parents/guardians.
- Humiliate children/young person's/vulnerable adults, including the use of sarcasm.

### **Procedures for Trustees and Adult Volunteers**

Action must be taken if a child/young person/vulnerable adult informs you directly that he/she has suffered abuse or is concerned about someone's behaviour towards them, or you become aware through your own observations or through a third party of possible abuse. It is not the responsibility of individual trustees or adult volunteers to investigate suspected or reported abuse. Trustees or Adult Volunteers are not required to make judgements about the truth or otherwise of any allegations made to them.

The following procedures should be followed:

- Report your concerns to the Slip End Playing Field Management Committee designated child protection officer on the same day. If the designated child protection officer is not available, inform the next most senior member of the Slip End Playing Field Management Committee (Chairman, Trustee etc)
- React calmly so as not to frighten a child/young person/vulnerable adult reporting abuse. Tell them they are not to blame, and they were right to tell. Take what they tell you seriously.
- Ensure their safety. If the child/young person/vulnerable adult needs immediate medical treatment, arrange to have them taken to hospital or call an ambulance. Inform doctors of the concerns and ensure that they are aware that it is a child protection issue.
- Avoid leading the child/young person/vulnerable adult and keep any questions to the absolute minimum necessary to ensure a clear understanding of what has been said. *(It is generally safe to ask questions beginning What...? Who...? When...? Etc.)*
- Reassure the child/young person/vulnerable adult but do not make promises of confidentiality or outcome, which might not be feasible in the light of subsequent developments.
- Parents and guardians should be contacted only after advice from social services.
- Make a full record of what has been said, heard and/or seen as soon as possible; retain a copy of any original notes you may make.
- Non-action is not an option in Safeguarding and child protection. You must act immediately; do not assume that somebody else will.
- It is a legal requirement that the designated child protection officer refers a concern to the CSCI within 24 hours.

**The Designated Child Protection Persons for Slip End Playing Field Management Committee are:**

- ❖ **Pete Smith - Chairman – Tel: 01582 733253**
- ❖ **Sarah Minnighan - Trustee – Tel: 07868 742 904**

**Adult Safeguarding – Central Bedfordshire Council**

- If you are worried that you or someone you know is in immediate danger, you should call the police on 999
- If the person you are worried about is not in immediate danger, then you can report suspected abuse of an adult via our Safeguarding website
- [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1527/safeguarding\\_of\\_vulnerable\\_adults](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/directory_record/1527/safeguarding_of_vulnerable_adults)
- **0300 300 8122** (Monday to Friday, 8:45am to 5:20pm)
- **0300 300 8123** (outside of these hours)
- email at [adult.protection@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:adult.protection@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**Child Protection & Safeguarding – Central Bedfordshire Council**

- If you are concerned about a child or young person please call the Children's Team on 0300 300 8585
- Out of Hours call 0300 300 8123

**Police**

<https://www.beds.police.uk/>

**NSPCC Helpline**

Tel: 0808 800 5000 – 24 hours Freephone

**Child Line** - Tel: 0800 11 11