

Comwich Boat Club

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Advice for Coaches and Adult Members:

1. Be sure that your actions and statements cannot be misunderstood by the young person, or are such that they feel uncomfortable\
2. Do not be alone with a child at any time, and in particular do not give a lift to a child without another adult or child present or without parental permission.
3. Do not touch a child or young person unless you need to in order to ensure their safety (e.g., helping a young child in or out of the boat or putting on a life jacket).
4. Be aware that you and the child are vulnerable if your actions can be misconstrued.
5. Never help a child get changed.
6. Be aware of vulnerable children in your care. Look out not only for physical signs of abuse, but also changes in demeanour, behaviour, neglect and other signs of distress.
7. If a child discloses abuse to you, **DO NOT QUESTION THE CHILD FURTHER**, but reassure them that you will help.
8. Do not remove a child's clothing but record what you see.
9. Monitor any concerns and let the Club designated person know
10. If bruises or marks are seen, contact the parents for an explanation if none has been volunteered. Record the conversation and file in the Child Protection file
11. Record all concerns on the relevant form and file in the Child Protection file held by the club designated person
12. If not appropriate for referral, it may still be appropriate to inform parents or deal with the situation at the club (e.g., is it bullying or an accident?)

The Designated person will then:

1. Briefly interview the child/children, eliciting basic information only, as appropriate
2. If appropriate, contact the parents to inform them of the situation and let them know if Health and Social Care are to be contacted.
3. If the parents are implicated, H&SC Child Protection Team should be notified first and advice taken
4. Record what has happened and the actions taken. Date, sign and file.

Trevor Reason is our designated Child Protection Officer. Trevor is the first point of contact if you have any concerns.

Updated 6 May 2022