



# SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY

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## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Care Act 2014 the Aikido Alliance UK (the Alliance) is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved in Alliance affiliated clubs.

The Alliance will encourage and support partner organisations to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality as set out in this document.

When an allegation of causing harm to an adult at risk is made, the Alliance will investigate in accordance with its Case Management procedures.

## PRINCIPLES

The guidance given in the policy and procedures is based on the six principles of adult safeguarding, as defined by the Care Act:

1. *Empowerment - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.*

“I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.”

2. *Prevention – It is better to act before harm occurs.*

“I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.”

3. *Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.*

“I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed.”

4. *Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need.*

“I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want.”

5. *Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse*

“I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”

6. *Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.*

“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”



## PRINCIPLES WHICH UNDERPIN THE SAFEGUARDING OF ADULTS

- All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- The Alliance will seek to ensure that our sport is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review.
- The rights, dignity and worth of all adults will always be respected.
- We recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, for example those who have a dependency on others or have different communication needs.
- We recognise that a disabled adult may or may not identify themselves or be identified as an adult 'at risk'.
- We all have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all adults and will act appropriately and report concerns whether these concerns arise within the Alliance, for example inappropriate behaviour of a coach, or in the wider community.
- All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with the guidance in this document
- The Alliance recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding adults
- and will comply with advice and guidance received from such agencies.

## GUIDANCE AND LEGISLATION

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on UK legislation and Government Guidance and take the following into consideration:

- The Care Act 2014
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018 (enacting GDPR)



## DEFINITIONS

To assist working through and understanding this policy a number of key definitions need to be explained:

**An Adult at Risk** is a person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

(In recent years there has been a marked shift away from using the term 'vulnerable' to describe adults potentially at risk from harm or abuse.)

**Abuse** is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. See section 5 for further explanations.

**An adult** is anyone aged 18 or over.

**Adult safeguarding** is protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

**Capacity** refers to the ability to make a decision at a particular time, for example when under considerable stress. The starting assumption must always be that a person has the capacity to make a decision unless it can be established that they lack capacity (*Mental Capacity Act 2005*).

## TYPES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT - DEFINITIONS FROM THE CARE ACT 2014

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour or issue which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

**Self-neglect** – this covers a wide range of behaviour: neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. In Aikido this could be someone whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable kit and deterioration in hygiene.

**Modern Slavery** – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

**Domestic Abuse** – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. Sport may notice a power imbalance between a participant and a family member. For example, a participant with Downs syndrome may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile.

**Discriminatory** – discrimination is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act. This could be the harassing of a club member because they are or are perceived to be transgender



**Organisational Abuse** – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one’s own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation. In Aikido, this could be training without a necessary break.

**Physical Abuse** – includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions. This could be a coach intentionally striking an aikidoka

**Sexual Abuse** – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. This could be a participant who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to a learning-disabled adult they are training alongside.

**Financial or Material Abuse** – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult’s financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

**Neglect** – including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. This could be a coach not ensuring participants have access to water.

**Emotional or Psychological Abuse** – this includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. This could be persistently blaming a participant for poor performance.

**The following are not included in the Care Act 2014 but are also relevant:**

**Cyber Bullying** - cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages, or uses online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

**Forced Marriage** - forced marriage is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry.

**Mate Crime** - a ‘mate crime’ as defined by the Safety Net Project is ‘when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.’ Mate Crime is carried out by someone the adult knows and often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Case Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were murdered or seriously harmed by people who purported to be their friend.



**Radicalisation** - the aim of radicalisation is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

## SIGNS AND INDICATORS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Abuse can take place in any context and by all manner of perpetrator. Abuse may be inflicted by anyone in the club. Or club members, volunteers or coaches may suspect that a participant is being abused or neglected outside of the club setting. There are many signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or neglected, these include but are not limited to:

- unexplained bruises or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present.
- belongings or money going missing.
- not attending / no longer enjoying their sessions.
- losing or gaining weight / an unkempt appearance.
- a change in the behaviour or confidence
- self-harm.
- a fear of a particular group or individual.
- a disclosure of abuse.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN OR SOMEONE RAISES CONCERNS WITH YOU.

You may become aware that abuse or poor practice is taking place, suspect abuse or poor practice may be occurring or be told about something that may be abuse or poor practice and you must report this to the Alliance Lead Safeguarding Officer

If the Lead Safeguarding [Officer](#) is implicated then report to another member of the [Alliance](#) Case Management Group. This can be done via your Head of Association or Welfare Officer.

If you are at an event and have a concern then speak to the appointed Welfare Officer or event organiser

If you are concerned someone is in immediate danger, contact the police straight away.

It is important when considering your concern that you also consider the needs and wishes of the person at risk, taking into account the nature of the alert.



## HOW TO RECORD A DISCLOSURE

Make a note of what the person has said using his or her own words as soon as practicable. Complete an Incident Form and submit to the Alliance Lead Safeguarding Officer or your Club Welfare Officer.

As long as it does not increase the risk to the individual, you should explain to them that it is your duty to share your concern with your Lead Safeguarding Officer or Club Welfare Officer.

Describe the circumstances in which the disclosure came about.

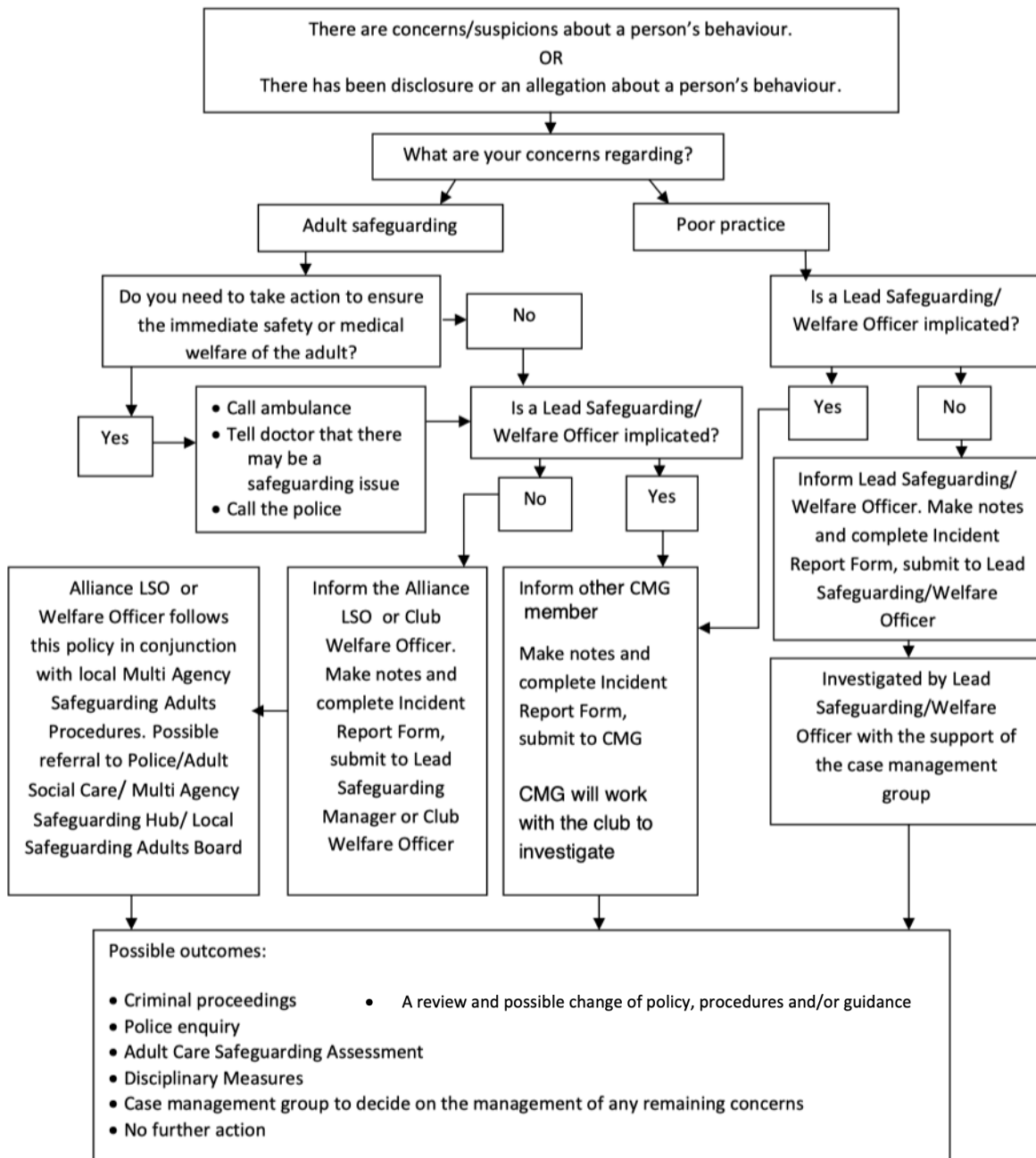
Take care to distinguish between fact, observation, allegation and opinion. It is important that the information you have is accurate.

Be mindful of the need to be confidential always, this information must only be shared with your Lead Safeguarding Officer or Club Welfare Officer and others on a need-to-know basis.

If the matter is urgent and relates to the immediate safety of an adult at risk then contact the police immediately.



**Safeguarding Adults Flowchart Dealing with Concerns, Suspicions or Disclosure**



**Remember to involve the adult at risk throughout the process wherever possible and gain consent for any referrals to social care if the person has capacity**





## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Alliance is committed to having the following in place:

- A Lead Safeguarding Officer and Club Welfare Officers in as many clubs as possible to produce and disseminate guidance and resources to support the policy and procedures.
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on promoting the welfare of all adults.
- Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse or poor practice against members of staff and volunteers.
- A Case Management Group that effectively deals with issues, manages concerns and refers to a disciplinary panel where necessary.
- A Disciplinary Panel which will be formed as required for a given incident, if appropriate and should a threshold be met.
- Arrangements to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults, including arrangements for sharing information.
- Appropriate whistle blowing procedures and an open and inclusive culture that enables safeguarding and equality and diversity issues to be addressed.

## GOOD PRACTICE, POOR PRACTICE AND ABUSE

It can sometimes be difficult to distinguish poor practice from abuse, whether intentional or accidental.

It is not the responsibility of any individual involved in Alliance affiliated clubs to make judgements regarding whether or not abuse is taking place, however, all the Alliance personnel have the responsibility to recognise and identify poor practice and potential abuse, and act on this if they have concerns.

### GOOD PRACTICE

The Alliance expects coaches of adult participants to:

- Adopt and endorse Alliance Codes of Conduct.
- Have an awareness of safeguarding and welfare principles when working with Adults at Risk.

Everyone should:

- Aim to make the training experience fun and enjoyable.
- Promote fairness and playing by the rules.
- Not tolerate the use of prohibited or illegal substances.
- Treat all adults equally and preserve their dignity; this includes giving more and less talented members of a group similar attention, time and support.



## RESPECT

Coaches and those working directly with adults at risk should:

- Respect the developmental stage of each participant and not risk sacrificing their welfare in a desire for team or personal achievement.
- Ensure that the training intensity is appropriate to the physical, social and emotional stage of the development of the participant.
- Work with adults at risk, medical adviser and their carers (where appropriate) to develop realistic training and competition schedules which are suited to the needs and lifestyle of the participant, not the ambitions of others such as coaches, team members, parents or carers.
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect, encouraging adults at risk to take responsibility for their own development and decision making.
- Always be publicly open when working with adults at risk.
- Avoid coaching sessions or meetings where a coach and an individual participant are completely unobserved.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with people. Physical contact (touching) can be appropriate so long as:
  - It is neither intrusive nor disturbing.
  - The participant's permission has been openly given.
  - It is delivered in an open environment.
  - It is needed to demonstrate during a coaching session.
- Maintain a safe and appropriate relationship with participants and avoid forming intimate relationships with participants you are working with as this may threaten the position of trust and respect present between participant and coach.
- Be an excellent role model by maintaining appropriate standards of behaviour.
- Gain the adult at risk consent and, where appropriate, the consent of relevant carers, in writing, to administer emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises.
- Be aware of medical conditions, disabilities, existing injuries and medicines being taken and keep written records of any injury or accident that occurs, together with details of treatments provided.
- Arrange that someone with current knowledge of emergency first aid is available always.
- Gain written consent from the correct people and fill out relevant checklists and information forms for travel arrangements and trips. This must be the adult themselves if they have capacity to do so.

## POOR PRACTICE

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided:

- Unnecessarily spending excessive amounts of time alone with an individual adult.
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form.



- Using language that might be regarded as inappropriate by the adult and which may be hurtful or disrespectful.
- Making sexually suggestive comments, even in jest.
- Reducing an adult to tears as a form of control.
- Letting allegations made by an adult go uninvestigated, unrecorded, or not acted upon.
- Taking an adult at risk alone in a car on journeys, however short.
- Inviting or taking an adult at risk to your home or office where they will be alone with you.
- Sharing a room with an adult at risk.
- Doing things of a personal nature that adults at risk can do for themselves.

Note: At times it may be acceptable to do some of the above. In these cases, to protect both the adult at risk and yourself, seek written consent from the adult at risk and, where appropriate, their carers and ensure that the Lead Safeguarding [Officer](#) and/or the Club Welfare Officer of your organisation or club is aware of the situation and gives their approval.

If, during your care, an adult at risk suffers any injury, seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstands/misinterprets something you have done, report these incidents as soon as possible to another adult in the organisation and make a brief written note of it.



## APPENDIX 1 INCIDENT REPORT FORM

This form can also be downloaded from the Aikido Alliance UK website

		<h3>Adults at Risk of Harm Safeguarding Concern Form</h3>	
<p>Use this form to record any safeguarding concern, however trivial. Forward it <b>immediately</b> to your Club Welfare Officer or the Alliance Lead Safeguarding Officer. Answer every question; continue on a blank sheet if necessary.</p>			
<b>Report ref no.</b> (office use)			
<b>Details of person at risk</b>			
Name of person		DOB:	
Home address (if not know say where the concern happened)			
<b>About You (the person filling in this form)</b>			
Your name		Job title	
Service		Date	
<b>About the safeguarding concern</b>			
If this incident/concern has also been reported on an Incident/Accident Report, please attach a copy of the report			



<p>Are you reporting your own concern or one raised by someone else?</p>	
<p>If you are raising a concern made by someone else, please provide their full name, status and contact details</p>	
<p>Please provide details of the concern you have including dates, times, descriptions of events, full names and whether the information is first hand or the accounts of others</p> <p><b>Note: If you have already reported this information on an Incident/ Accident Report, simply write 'See attached Inc/Acc Report'</b></p>	



<p>The person at risk's account (if applicable). <b>Include what they want the outcome to be</b></p>	
<p>Provide details of the person causing harm (if known)</p>	
<p>Provide details of any witnesses to the concern</p>	
<p>Provide details of any previous incidents or concerns relating to this person (if known)</p>	



<p><b>Actions:</b> Please state the immediate actions you took in response to the concern:</p>	
<p><b>Note:</b> If you have already reported this information on an Incident/Accident Report, simply write 'See Inc/Acc Report'</p>	
<p><b>People contacted</b></p> <p><i>You must pass this form <b>immediately</b> to Club Welfare Officer or the Alliance Lead Safeguarding Officer. You should only contact people outside the Club/Alliance organisation to deal with an immediate emergency (for example, police or ambulance service).</i></p> <p><b>Give details below of any people that you have communicated this concern to – give name, position, contact details, and the date and time that you contacted them:</b></p>	
<p><b>Declaration:</b> I have completed all sections of this form to the best of my knowledge</p>	
<p>Signature</p>	



## APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

### **Sexual Offences Act 2003**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents>

The Sexual Offences Act introduced a number of new offences concerning vulnerable adults and children. [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

### **Mental Capacity Act 2005**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/introduction>

Its general principle is that everybody has capacity unless it is proved otherwise, that they should be supported to make their own decisions, that anything done for or on behalf of people without capacity must be in their best interests and there should be least restrictive intervention. [www.dca.gov.uk](http://www.dca.gov.uk)

### **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/contents>

Introduced the new Vetting and Barring Scheme and the role of the Independent Safeguarding Authority. The Act places a statutory duty on all those working with vulnerable groups to register and undergo an advanced vetting process with criminal sanctions for noncompliance. [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

### **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dh-mental-capacity-act-2005-deprivation-of-libertysafeguards>

Introduced into the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and came into force in April 2009. Designed to provide appropriate safeguards for vulnerable people who have a mental disorder and lack the capacity to consent to the arrangements made for their care or treatment, and who may be deprived of their liberty in their best interests in order to protect them from harm.

### **Disclosure & Barring Service 2013**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about>

Criminal record checks: guidance for employers - How employers or organisations can request criminal records checks on potential employees from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). [www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service](http://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service)





### **The Care Act 2014 – statutory guidance**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/introduction/enacted>

The Care Act introduces new responsibilities for local authorities. It also has major implications for adult care and support providers, people who use services, carers and advocates. It replaces No Secrets and puts adult safeguarding on a statutory footing.

### **Making Safeguarding Personal Guide 2014**

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5852661/Making+Safeguarding+Personal++Guide+2014/4213d016-2732-40d4-bbc0-d0d8639ef0df>

This guide is intended to support councils and their partners to develop outcomes-focused, person-centred safeguarding practice.

## **APPENDIX 3 USEFUL CONTACTS**

In the case of an emergency or if someone is at risk to themselves or to others, always contact the emergency services by calling 999.

If you need to speak to someone about any of the information in this document, or about a safeguarding query or concern then you can contact:

Lead Safeguarding Officer: Sue Ward 07527 992059 [sueward.cpo@gmail.com](mailto:sueward.cpo@gmail.com)

Case Management Group: if you need to contact someone other than Sue Ward (e.g. if she is implicated in a concern) then please refer to your Head of Association. Or contact your Club Welfare Officer who will be able to escalate the matter for you.

Ann Craft Trust - Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity:

Website: [www.anncrafttrust.org](http://www.anncrafttrust.org) Email: [Ann-Craft-Trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Ann-Craft-Trust@nottingham.ac.uk) Telephone: 0115 951 5400



## CHANGE LOG

Date	Details of change
Reviewed March 2024	None