

BORDERS MODEL BOAT CLUB

YOUNG PERSONS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS CLUB POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Within this document:

- A “junior member” or “junior” is defined as a person under 18 years of age.
- A “vulnerable adult” is defined as a person of 18 years of age or over but through mental or physical attributes requires a higher level of supervision than would be normally commensurate with an adult member.

The Children Act 1989 indicates that anyone who has the care of children should “*do what is reasonable in all circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child’s welfare.*” Everyone has a part to play, however, the parents, guardians, carers, friends and those for whom we are caring also have a vital part to play.

Similar principles also apply to those working with vulnerable adults at club level although the legislation and national infrastructure concerning the protection of vulnerable adults is different from that for the protection of children

Abuse can occur anywhere where there are children: at home, in school, in the park, at the club site or clubroom. Sadly, there is a small minority who will seek to be with children simply to obtain gratification from abuse. Similarly, abuse can occur simply because those involved lack the knowledge to prevent the situation arising.

The following simple principles apply to promote the protection of children

- The child’s welfare is the first consideration.
- All children regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, religion or sexual identity have the right to be protected from abuse and to be treated with dignity.
- All those working with children should have the knowledge and awareness to permit them to make informed decisions to prevent placing themselves or children at risk.

Implementation of these policies and guidelines is not something of which to be afraid and should not prevent the continuing integration of children into the club. Protecting children from abuse and promoting their welfare is largely a matter of common sense and a little thought at the outset can prevent misunderstanding and inappropriate accusations.

CLUB POLICY STATEMENT

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GUIDELINES

It should be noted that any disclaimer concerning the care of any member, particularly junior or vulnerable adult members, is not acceptable in law.

- All members, parents, guardians and carers are to comply with club policies and guidelines for the promotion of welfare and care of children.
- Junior members must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. The level of supervision is to be commensurate with the junior member's age, maturity, capabilities and levels of experience.
- No child or vulnerable adult shall undertake any activity which might place him or her at risk. In any event prior consultation with their parent, guardian or carer must take place if there is any doubt on the member's abilities to undertake a specific activity.
- No member is to be expected to assume responsibility for a child or a vulnerable adult unless he/she has been specifically requested to do so by the parent, guardian or carer. If required to do so, he/she is to assume complete and total responsibility for the child or vulnerable adult whilst he/she is in their charge.
- Whilst supervising children or vulnerable adults, members should avoid placing themselves in a position that could be open to misinterpretation or question.
- No Child shall be photographed without the permission of the parent. If photographs are taken, the name, or other details of the child shall not be associated with the photograph. No photographs shall be published without the permission of the parent.

Should any member, or the person themselves have serious concerns about the welfare of children or vulnerable adults then he or she should contact the Club Chairman or other Committee member, and confirm such concerns in writing to the Club Secretary. If deemed necessary, the Club Chairman will refer the allegation to the local Social Services Department and seek their advice for any further action.

SOME COMMON SENSE GUIDELINES FOR EVERYONE DEALING WITH CHILDREN:-

- Do not take children alone in a car on journeys, however short.
- Do not take children to your home.
- Do not photograph or video children, or publish their pictures, without the knowledge and consent of their parents.
- Do not publish information, in print or on a website that might enable someone to contact the child.

They should never:

- Be alone with children away from others.
- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching in any form.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Let allegations a child makes go unchallenged or unrecorded; always act.