Ceddesfeld Hall home of the SCA

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1. Introduction:

Sedgefield Arts, Recreation & Community Association CIO (SCA) is committed to ensuring that everyone who takes part in our activities has positive enjoyable experiences and kept free from harm. Abuse or harm is not a new problem but it can be significantly reduced by

- learning more about the problem,
- giving young people, particularly, self-protection strategies, knowing how to listen carefully
- knowing what action to take when allegations of abuse are made.

2. Aims

The aim of this policy is to make Trustees, members and volunteers aware that abuse, ill treatment or unfairness will not be tolerated and to encourage everyone to speak out about such behaviour either experienced or witnessed.

We will ensure that:

- Everyone is treated with respect.
- Activities take place in a safe and secure environment
- Opportunities exist for anyone to talk to us about any concerns they may have.
- Everyone feels comfortable and confident enough to discuss attitudes and behaviours they do not like.
- Trustees and volunteers associated with SCA will take appropriate action when anyone expresses concern about abuse.
- Adults who work with young people or vulnerable adults are checked and cleared through the Criminal Records Bureau.
- No adult is left alone with an individual young person

3. What is abuse?

Abuse "is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons."

Types of abuse:

- physical
- sexual
- psychological/emotional
- neglect
- financial or material
- discriminatory

4. Possible signs abuse

It is understood that not all people manifesting these signs will necessarily be suffering abuse. Caution, sensitivity and common sense will shape precisely how adults respond.

- Becomes withdrawn or isolated
- Becomes aggressive or starts seeking attention
- Becomes afraid of certain people
- Develops chronic medical problems such as stomach pains or headaches
- Acts in sexually inappropriate ways toward adults or peers
- Becomes anorexic or bulimic
- Fails to thrive

- Is often hungry
- Has regular accidents
- Has poor personal hygiene
- Is regularly tired
- Is reluctant to go home
- Wears inappropriate clothing
- Develops poor social relationships
- Exhibits inappropriate emotional responses
- Exhibits dramatic changes in mood or behaviour
- Engages in drug or alcohol abuse
- Runs away
- Feels depressed
- Has unconvincing explanations for visible and repeated bumps, bruises or wounds
- Tells of a friend with a problem of abuse

SCA Trustees will take steps to establish whether the person is suffering abuse.

5. Suspected Abuse

If abuse is suspected, Trustees, members and volunteers associated with SCA will ensure that the SCA Safeguarding Children Trustee, Sarah Guest, is alerted to take appropriate action. In her absence, any Trustee may be contacted. A list of Trustee contact details is displayed on the Ceddesfeld Hall notice board.

6. Confidentiality

- Information about an alleged abuse will be treated in the strictest confidence.
- The alleged abusers right to confidentiality will also be upheld

7. DBS Guidelines

Adults who work with (or chaperone) young people (7 to 18year olds) are checked and cleared through the Criminal Records Bureau at the appropriate level, and will hold an Enhanced DBS with a Children's Barred List Check - (DBS Guidelines - Crime and Policing Act 2026)

Signed on behalf of SCA.....Wendy R Gill.....

This Policy was adopted on:…… …….

This Policy will be reviewed by:…… ……..……..