

Settle Harriers

Child Protection Policy

Aim of Policy

It is the aim of Settle Harriers Running Club members to create an enjoyable and safe environment where every young child or young person can take part in the activities of the club. A club where parents/ carers can feel confident that it is a safe place to let their child attend. It is our belief that the child's welfare is paramount.

Key principles

- For the purpose of this policy anyone under the age of 18 years shall be deemed to be a child.
- Regardless of, age, gender, culture, racial origin, ability and sexual orientation all children have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and be responded to swiftly.
- Any such matters will be reported to Social Services Department in the area where the child resides or in the area where the incident or suspicion occurred.

All Coaches and Leaders of the club who come into active contact with children will be subject to a DBS check, except for volunteer helpers working under constant supervision of a qualified coach. Such volunteers will be asked to complete an Athletes Volunteer Application and Self Declaration Form as approved by England Athletics.

Definitions of child abuse

The term child abuse is used to describe ways in which children are harmed, usually by an adult, either a stranger or someone they may know

There are 4 main ways a child is subject to abuse

- 1) **Physical abuse** – Deliberately inflicted injuries by adults, or other children upon a child. It includes injury caused by hitting, squeezing, burning, biting or using excessive force. It can also occur if the intensity of the training or competition that the child is asked to undertake disregards the immaturity and growing body of the individual, resulting in unreasonable fatigue and overuse injury.
- 2) **Emotional abuse** – Where adults or other children fail to show due care and attention or threaten, taunt or shout at a child, causing them to lose confidence, self esteem and become nervous and withdrawn.
- 3) **Neglect** – Where adults fail to provide help and care to the child. This also includes leaving a child alone without proper supervision, not ensuring the child is in a safe environment and free from risk and injury.

Sexual abuse – where adults or children use children to fulfil their sexual needs.

Code of practice

- Avoid physical contact. Teach techniques by demonstration.
- Avoid situations where you are alone with a child.
- All people working with children are expected to hold appropriate qualifications or working under direct supervision of a person who has.
- Adults should not over criticize young athletes, or use language or actions which may cause children to lose confidence or self esteem.

- Any person working with children should not take unrelated children to their (the adults) home.

Actions to be taken by Child Protection/Welfare officer of Settle Harriers

Or in the absence by any officer of the club

- 1) Advise the child that you will not be able to maintain confidentiality.
- 2) Listen to the child rather than question.
- 3) Make a note of what is said, taking care to record time, date, setting and people present.
- 4) Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- 5) Any person with a suspicion or allegation of child abuse should report to the Child Protection/ Welfare officer or any officer at the club who without delay refer the matter to Social Services.
- 6) The person reporting the suspicions of making the allegations must be prepared to speak to Social Services to clarify their concerns.
- 7) Any person suspected of abusing a child should not be approached by another member of the club concerning the abuse issue.
- 8) Any child, parent or person is encouraged to contact social Services or the police local to them, directly without referring the matter to the Child Protection/Welfare officer at the club.
- 9) Other club officials should deal with matters if the person who would otherwise deal with the matter is compromised by a relationship or friendship with the person against whom the suspicion has emerged.

Any coach or member of the club who has been accused of abusing a child will be suspended by the club “without prejudice” pending the investigation.

Club members who are working with the club may be placed in a position of trust by a child who may feel able to disclose incidents that have occurred anywhere outside the club environment e.g., school, home etc., These incidents must be taken seriously and referred immediately to Social Services.

Signed..... Date.....

Name Sarah Walker Position: Child protection/Welfare officer

Signed..... Date.....

Name Alex Pilkington Position: Chairman