



Cardiff Outdoor Group Child Protection Policy

October 2004

All children have a right not to be abused and to be protected from abuse and neglect. 'Protecting children is everyone's business' underlines the need for us all to take responsibility in order to protect our children.

In our organisation we are committed to creating an environment in which children are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is responded to promptly and appropriately. It is the clear responsibility of all those involved in our organisation to adopt good practice throughout all activities undertaken.

For the purposes of this Child Protection Policy children are minors under the age of 16.

Our aims are :

- To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children and young people who take part in all activities and events organised by Cardiff Outdoor Group enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- Event organisers/leaders will be aware of child protection issues and the group's Family Liaison Officer will be aware of child protection procedures. Leaders will liaise with the Family Liaison Officer when necessary.
- To promote high standards in the organisation of our activities/events.

In order to achieve this we will :

- Ensure that no events specifically for children are publicly advertised.
- Ensure that all children are accompanied by parents or guardians.
- Advise parents that for events not specifically for children, the attendance of children will need to be approved prior to the event by the event organiser/leader.
- Liaise with parents and other agencies when applicable to promote good practice in the area of child protection.

- Endeavour to ensure that all members have access to appropriate child protection information and procedures via the Family Liaison Officer. Detailed arrangements, systems and procedures for implementing the policy are contained in the "All Wales Child Protection Procedures".
- COG will always seek to work with others in a clear, positive and open way, bearing in mind the welfare of the child is paramount.

Remember : Any concerns about the well-being of a child needs to be shared with the Family Liaison Officer.

The Family Liaison Officer will be appointed by the Committee. The Family Liaison Officer will report any suspicion to the group Chair. In the absence of the Family Liaison Officer a senior officer of the Group's Committee will act as his/her deputy.

Child abuse is a criminal offence. All members have an ethical duty to report any reasonable concern that a child may be being abused. The role of the group's members is to inform the Family Liaison Officer of any instance which suggests that the abuse is taking place. It is not the role of the member to wait for proof, investigate or gather evidence.

When a child tells an adult about possible abuse, his or her statements should not be ignored or dismissed. The adult should attend carefully to what the child wants to communicate, taking into account the child's age and stage of development and allow the child to say what they want without being drawn into detailed questioning.

Members should make their best endeavours to **record and report..**

They should :

- Enquire casually about how an injury was sustained or why a child appears upset.
- Respond without showing any signs of disquiet, anxiety or shock.
- Observe carefully the demeanour or behaviour of the child.
- Confidentiality must not be promised to children or adults.
- Report to the Family Liaison Officer at the earliest practicable opportunity.

They should not :

- Investigate suspected/alleged abuse themselves.
- Evaluate the grounds for concern.
- Seek or wait for proof.
- Discuss with anyone but the Family Liaison Officer.

References :

All Wales Child Protection Procedure
N.S.P.C.C.
The Police