



Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures

This has been reviewed and agreed by the Yorkshire Sport Foundation Board

On 15th November 2023

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1. Context

Yorkshire Sport Foundation is a charitable Company and this policy covers all aspects of the Charity's work and its subsidiaries.

Yorkshire Sport Foundation has a responsibility to protect people and we are committed to improving safeguarding processes across sport and physical activity. We have a responsibility for advocating and influencing partner organisations to provide safe systems for safeguarding.

The welfare of all people is the primary concern and we believe that everybody, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.

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

- The Care Act 2014
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 (referred to as MCA 2005)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 1994 and 1998
- UK GDPR 2020

This policy applies to all Yorkshire Sport Foundation staff and volunteers. It details procedures and standards that we advocate for external organisations who we work with and/or fund. Crucially, it recognises that all individuals have a duty of care to provide a safe environment and protect people from abuse.

Yorkshire Sport Foundation's work has been categorised to ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures are understood and adhered to:

1. Us as an organisation
2. Commissioned work
3. Event management
4. Supporting the network

2. Overall responsibilities

Across all of work the Charity will:

- Accept the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for everyone, safeguard their well-being and protect them from abuse.
- Ensure an open and inclusive culture that enables safeguarding, equality and diversity issues to be addressed.
- Make safeguarding a priority for the business and have an identified Safeguarding lead and internal working group.
- Ensure an effective implementation plan is reviewed and evaluated annually.

- Embed safeguarding within contractual agreements.
- Require all staff/volunteers to adopt and abide by the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- Recruit, train and supervise its employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect people from abuse, and reduce the likelihood of allegations being made.
- Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures where it concerns Yorkshire Sport Foundation staff.
- Promote and advocate wider guidance and legislation to partners.
- Pass on information re safeguarding concerns to statutory agencies and/or other organisations (e.g. sports, schools, facilities) in line with these procedures and information sharing guidance.
- Have the arrangements in place to collaborate and to work effectively with the safeguarding partners as required by any local safeguarding arrangements, e.g. if approached to be a relevant agency will have arrangements/staff in place to fulfil this role.

Assurance

The Charity has a dedicated Safeguarding lead and an internal safeguarding group which meets at least twice a year to draw up an annual implementation plan and review progress. The plan will highlight the action that needs to be taken, by whom, how and when in order to implement the Charity's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

The implementation plan will be shared with the Charity's board members and they will be updated with the progress. This plan is also peer reviewed by the Child Protection in Sport Unit and the Ann Craft Trust.

The Charity is committed to the Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework process, meeting the required standards and producing an action plan that includes the following framework criteria:

- Safeguarding Governance
- Implementation of Adult Safeguarding Responsibility
- Training
- Recruitment
- Codes of Conduct
- Case Management

Reviewing and evaluating is a crucial part of the process and we may choose to evaluate levels of awareness and knowledge, perceptions and attitudes, behaviour and skills as well as incidents and processes. The internal safeguarding group will take decisions on the appropriate methods for reviewing implementation. The CEO and Board champion will be consulted as appropriate.

The purpose for the implementation plan is to ensure we have identified priorities and are making progress against these. It provides assurance to the team, the Board and partners that we are compliant with national requirements for safeguarding.

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed at least every two years. Where there are legislation changes, changes to Yorkshire Sport Foundation roles or function, or a significant incident occurs then the policy will be reviewed more often. The review will be carried out by the internal safeguarding group. The policy will then be taken to the CEO and Board for approval. All staff of the Charity will be given a briefing and a copy of the updated policy.

Safeguarding Structure:

- Board Champion
- Chief Executive Officer
- Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Internal Safeguarding Team
- Internal DBS group
- All staff

Overview of roles and responsibilities:

Board Champion	Chief Executive Officer	Designated Safeguarding Leads	Internal Safeguarding Team	Internal DBS group	All staff
Review and support the implementation plan	Approve the implementation plan	Lead the development of the implementation plan	Action the implementation plan	Case Management	Raise any concerns following the reporting procedures
Support Board Training	Ensure policy is adhered to	Plan staff training	Lead and advocate safeguarding across the organisation	Review DBS requirements for a job role	Undertaking regular training
Approve the policy and ensure it is adhered to	Case Management	Ensure policy is adhered to	Develop and review appropriate policies	Assess information using a risk assessment model	Promoting safeguarding standards across all work areas
Be the safeguarding 'voice' at board level		Decision to share information / reporting			
		Case Management			
		Coordinate Safe in Sport Forums			

3. Principles

The guidance given in the policy and procedures is based on the following principles:

The six principles of adult safeguarding

The Care Act sets out the following principles that should underpin safeguarding of adults

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.”

Prevention – It is better to take action 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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

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

- Yorkshire Sport Foundation will seek to ensure that our company is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment and we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review of our policies and practices.
- 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 our company or in the wider community.
- All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with Yorkshire Sport Foundation Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.
- Yorkshire Sport Foundation recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding adults and is committed to complying with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Adults Boards.

4. Definitions

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

- **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.
- **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 (MCA 2005).

5. Organisational services

This refers to the different organisational policies and procedures that The Charity has in place that contribute towards safeguarding of children and young people.

Recruitment, Employment and Deployment of Staff and Volunteers

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working in the sport and physical activity environment. The Charity is committed to undertaking criminal records checks when required by law, or when roles are otherwise eligible.

The Charity has a clear and robust recruitment policy that is adhered to, this includes ensuring that:

- Yorkshire Sport Foundation's open and positive stance on safeguarding is clear.
- Listing of past career or relevant experience.
- The names of at least two people (not relatives) from the Applicant's previous 5 years of employment willing to provide written employment references that comment on the applicant's previous experience and suitability for the role.
- The requirement that a DBS check will be undertaken if it the post meets eligibility criteria. In the case of establishing a DBS enhanced disclosure, the Charity will write to the individual requesting that they provide sight within 21 days of the written request. The Charity has the discretion to vary the timing of this requirement as it sees fit and will follow procedures outlined in the Recruitment of Ex Offenders Policy

Induction

All staff have an induction in which:

- Safeguarding procedures are explained and training needs established
- Good Practice Guidelines and Code of Conduct are shared.
- They are briefed, given a copy of and agree to adhere to the Charity's policies

Training

Appropriate safeguarding training is mandatory for all paid and volunteer staff to ensure they are aware of their duties and competent to report and manage concerns.

All paid staff will receive appropriate introductory safeguarding training – either UK Coaching or Local Safeguarding Partnerships within 3 months of their employment. Training is refreshed regularly.

The designated safeguarding lead and deputies will receive appropriate training e.g. Time to Listen training related to the role and this is refreshed on a regular basis. They also attend Lead Officer update sessions coordinated by CPSU and the Ann Craft Trust.

Annual training may include:

- Review of reporting procedures
- Recognition of Poor Practice, Abuse and Bullying
- Scenario situations
- Refresher training

Complaints Procedures

The Charity's complaints and appeals procedures will be used to deal with any formal complaints (including safeguarding issues) from external stakeholders and/or appeals. We will strive to ensure that parents and young people are aware of the existence of these procedures.

The procedures are available on our website for external agencies to access.

Disciplinary Procedures

The Charity's disciplinary procedures will be invoked where a case warrants the use of disciplinary measures.

Promoting Good Practice

Good Practice Guidelines and examples to create a positive culture in sport and physical activity are outlined in appendix B.

These are issued to all staff working for The Charity as part of the induction process and staff are required to sign to abide by them.

Supporting policies and procedures

The Charity has a number of policies and procedures than run alongside the Safeguarding Adult's Policy, these are:

- Safeguarding Children and Young people Policy
- Stress at work Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Mental Health Policy
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Disciplinary Procedure
- GDPR / Data Protection
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Disclosure in Public Interest Policy
- Ex-offenders policy
- Personal information / photography policy

6. Commissioned work:

It is a requirement that all organisations receiving funding from the Charity will have appropriate safeguarding policy and procedures in place and meet the minimum operating standards for sport and physical activity.

Funding agreements:

All funding agreements for include:

- A safeguarding commitment statement which all funded parties sign.
- Confirmation that the funded organisation adheres to the 2018 UK GDPR regulations and has appropriate consent to share the personal data of all participants related to the project with Yorkshire Sport Foundation and trusted partners. This includes parental / guardian consent for any participant under the age of 16 and appropriate consent from the individual for those aged 16+.
- Where we adopt a contact tendering process we have a governance checklist which organisations need to evidence against. A safeguarding policy and DBS checked staff (if appropriate) are included within this.

Participant Consent:

We have a privacy notice which can be found on our website which details The Charity's responsibility to keep personal information safe. Personal information is anything that allows us to identify an individual such as a name or address. We must keep this information secure and not pass it on to anyone else without consent unless there is an emergency.

All participation data that we collect and share is anonymised. However, through our work we often demonstrate impact with personal stories and we have policies which outlines the use of personal information, photographic and video images. This ensures we have appropriate consent to store and

share this information as in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. This includes the use of images on our website, social media and promotional materials.

Minimum Operating Standards checklist (Appendix G)

All funded projects that include sport and physical activity delivery have to submit a Minimum Operating Standards Checklist before funding is released. 'Minimum Operating Standards' are defined as the basic standards a sport and physical activity deliverer needs to meet to be able to carry out their role safely and effectively.

7. Event management

The charity acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of people that attend events organised by ourselves.

To ensure the ongoing Safety at our organised events, we will:

- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are prioritised at every stage of event planning.
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding at events. This is through pre-event communications including event manuals, briefings for staff, volunteers and schools.
- Follow our recruitment and selection procedures.
- Include specific welfare training for all event staff.
- Appoint a nominated safeguarding lead during events.
- Ensure staff follow the procedure for reporting concerns.
- Implement the photography policy and clearly communicate where photos and videos will be used.
- Not hold individual participant information.
- Ensure there is sufficient first aid provision.

The safeguarding at events policies and procedures will be promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in events to read and understand. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from events.

8. Supporting the network

The Charity has a responsibility to promote and advocate wider guidance and legislation to partners:

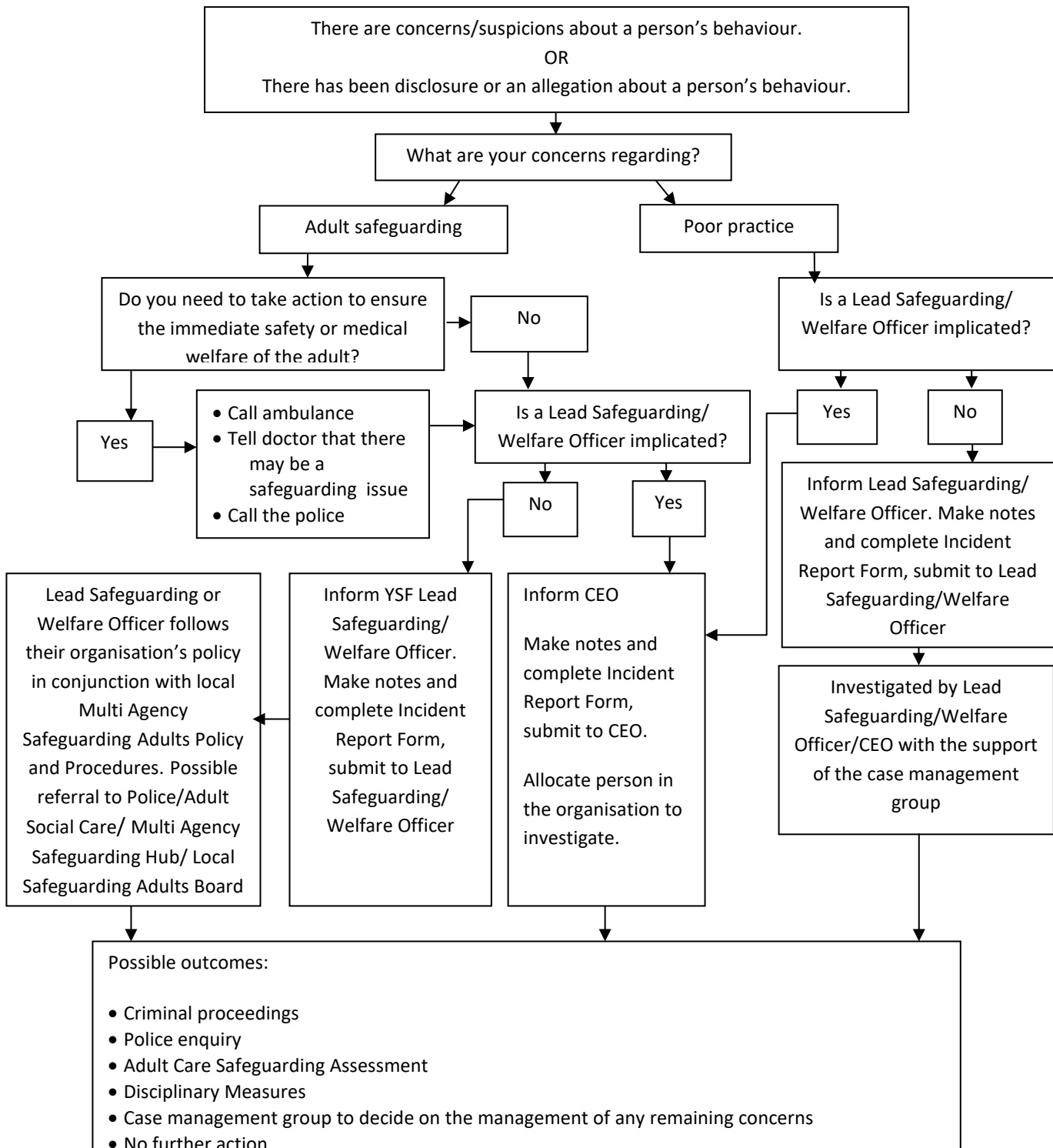
Safe in Sport Forums

We coordinate network meetings across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire at least twice a year. Together we work with partners to establish and implement agreed consistent minimum safeguarding standards for sports activities locally and support those working in sport by giving them knowledge, guidance and raising awareness of what they need to do to protect these vulnerable groups and minimise avoidable risks.

External Training

We organise regular Safeguarding training for local clubs and organisations to access.

9. Safeguarding Adults Flowchart for Reporting Concerns



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

Appendices

Appendix A	Contact Details
Appendix B	Good practice, poor practice and abuse
Appendix C	Types of Abuse and Neglect
Appendix D	Use of personal information & Photo consent form
Appendix E	Incident / Concern Record Form
Appendix F	Minimum Operating Standards checklist
Appendix G	Protocol for Information Sharing
Appendix H	Questions to ask to inform safe information sharing practice
Appendix I:	Flowchart of key principles for information sharing
Appendix J:	Definition of Regulated Activity
Appendix K:	How to Record a Disclosure
Appendix L:	Legislation and Government Initiatives