

North Down Athletic Club – Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy 2017

This safeguarding policy reflects guidelines and policies including;

- Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children’s Sport, Sport NI 2006
- Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in NI 2016
- The Children (NI) order 1995
- Safeguarding vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007

Date for review _____

North Down Athletic Club are committed to good practice which intends to protect children from harm. To achieve this, we will;

1. Adopt safeguarding guidelines through Codes of Conduct for members, coaches and volunteer helpers
2. Ensure careful recruitment of coaches and provide regular support and supervision to all coaches and volunteer helpers
3. Ensure complaints, grievance and disciplinary procedures are included in our constitution
4. Share information about concerns with children and parents and others who need to know
5. Be involved in training made available through various agencies and strengthen links with these agencies
6. Keep safeguarding policies under regular review (every 3 years minimum)
7. Have procedures relating specifically to away trips, transport and use of photography
8. Create an open environment by identifying a ‘Designated Person’ to whom children and young people can turn to if they need to talk.

Awareness of the issues

Of primary concern for North Down Athletic Club is the safeguarding of our young members within the club, However, recognising indicators of abuse caused by others outside the club are of an equal importance to the safety and well-being of that child.

Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in NI 2016 formally recognises 4 types of abuse;

Physical – deliberate physical injury to a child or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. For example, hitting, confinement or inappropriately being given drugs.

Emotional – persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. For example, causing a child to feel frightened, worthless or inadequate. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may also expose children to emotional abuse.

Sexual – forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities whether the child is aware of what is happening or not. For example, penetrative or nonpenetrative acts, involving children in looking at pornographic material or encouraging children to behave in sexual inappropriate ways.

Neglect – persistent failure to meet a child’s physical, emotional and/or psychological needs likely to result in significant harm. For example, failing to ensure adequate access to medical treatment, lack of supervision or inadequate provision of nutrient rich food stuffs.

As well as the above, North Down Athletic Club recognise bullying (physically/emotionally or cyberbullying) as a totally unacceptable behaviour. Anyone, child, coach or volunteer, found to be bullying others will be dealt with seriously, both regarding the behaviour and the reasons for the behaviour.

Indicators of abuse (not an exhaustive list)

Physical indicators	Behavioural indicators
Bruising	Becoming withdrawn or aggressive
Repeated injuries	Sudden drop in performance
Bites	Change in attendance pattern
Burns	Reluctance to remove clothing
Inconsistent excuses relating to injuries	Distrust/excessive attachment to adults

Responding to a disclosure

The responsibility of deciding if a child has been abused lies with the Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) Gateway Team, not with any member of North Down Athletic Club. However, all adults have a responsibility to protect children by reporting grounds for concern.

Always

- Record what has been said ASAP
- Remain sensitive and calm
- Let the child talk, do not interview
- Explain that you must tell others to ensure action is taken to increase their safety
- Tell the child what will happen next
- Involve appropriate individuals immediately
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing and that it will be dealt with appropriately

Never

- Make promises you cannot keep
- Pass a judgement on the alleged abuser
- Take sole responsibility – always consult the Designated Safeguarding Officer (Welfare Officer) so you can protect the child and gain support for yourself.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer (Welfare Officer) for North Down Athletic Club is

_____ Clare Smith _____

Contact Details

_____ ndacwelfare@gmail.com _____

If the concern is about the Designated Safeguarding Officer (Welfare Officer) please report to the Club Chairperson.

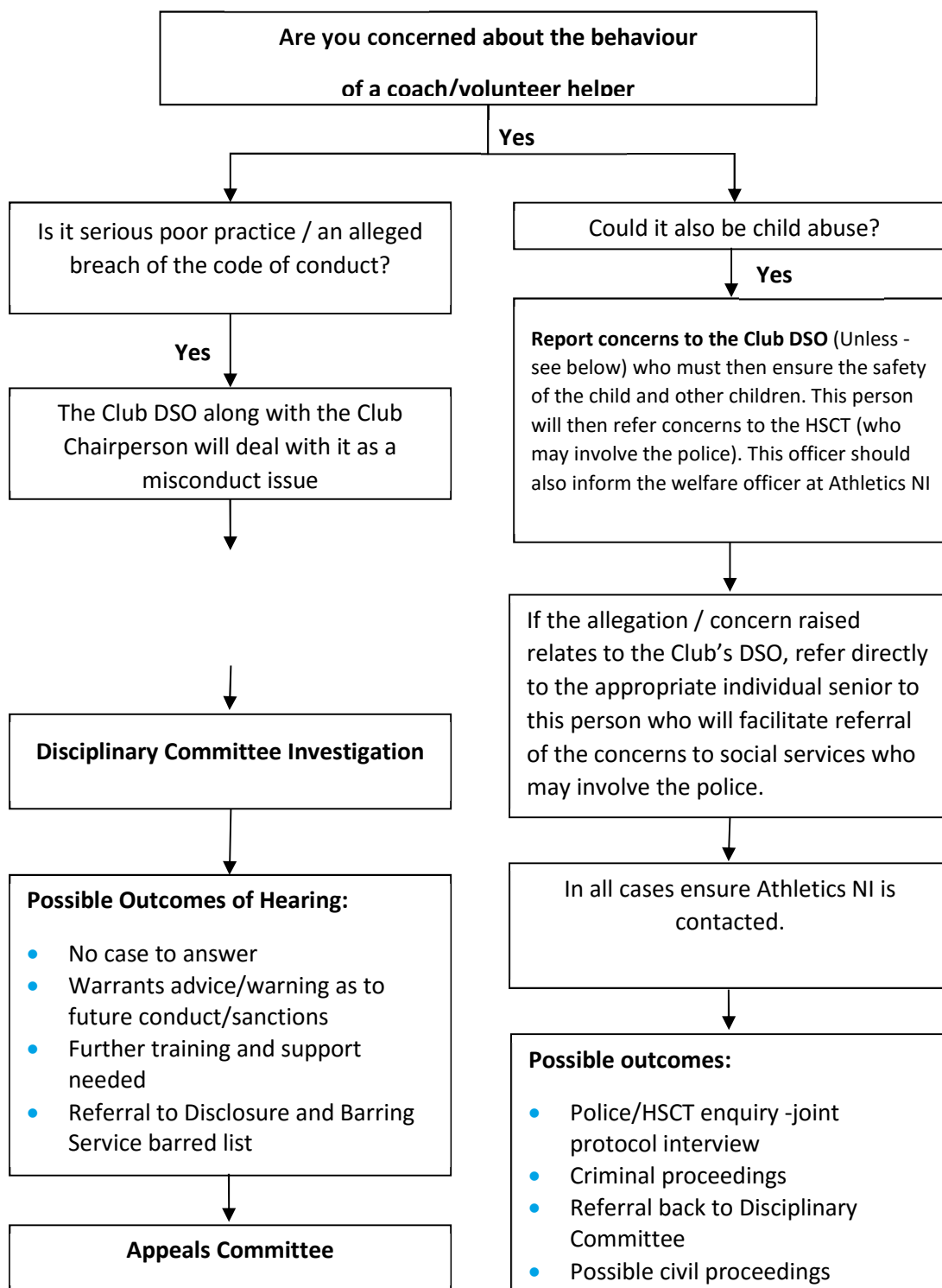
External Concerns

When a concern is about possible abuse outside of North Down Athletic Club the following procedural guidelines should be followed;

1. Coach/volunteer helper to report issue to Designated Safeguarding Officer (Welfare Officer) who will 'informally consult' with the HSCT for advice and guidance by phone
2. If, following advice there is no case to answer then the person who raised the concern will be informed
3. If it is decided there may be reasonable grounds for concern, and under consideration of the parent being the alleged abuser, either the parent will be informed and/or the HSCT and PSNI
4. If advised, a formal referral will be made to the HSCT/PSNI
5. We will ensure that the young person is appropriately supported whilst maintaining confidentiality

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT)	Tel: 0300 123 4333
Regional Emergency Social Work	Tel: 028 9504 9999
PSNI – Public Protection Unit	Tel: 028 9065 0222
NSPCC Helpline	Tel: 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk
Child Protection in Sport Unit	Tel: 028 9035 1135 www.thecpsu.org.uk

Internal Concerns



If you do not know who to turn to for advice or are worried, you should contact the HSCT Gateway Team direct (or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000). At any stage during

the process in the left hand column the issue can be referred externally either formally or informally for advice. Following the external (right column) outcome the matter may be referred back to the organisation's Disciplinary Committee.

Safe Recruitment for Coaches/volunteer helpers

- North Down Athletic Club coaches and volunteer helpers are carefully selected, trained and supervised. The office bearers of the club committee must vouch for anyone new
- All coaches/volunteer helpers must complete an Access NI Disclosure Certificate Application Form (proof of identity MUST be provided)
- All coaches/volunteer helpers must agree to abide by North Down Athletic Clubs Safeguarding Policy.
- Any concerns/objections about suitability of a coach/volunteer helper should be submitted to Athletics NI Welfare Officer
- Education and training in the basics of safeguarding will apply to all coaches/volunteer helpers and management committee members working with children and/or young people. North Down Athletic Club is committed to continuous updating and review of our current Safeguarding Policy. Our aim is to have new coaches/volunteer helpers attend a safeguarding workshop within 6 months of taking up their post.

Guidelines Relating to Away Days

North Down Athletic Club is committed to ensure we follow certain standards to ensure the safety of our members when attending athletic meetings/trips. This includes the following;

1. Organisers will ensure a detailed programme of activities is produced well in advance of the trip
2. Parents will be given full information about a trip, including details of the event and activities in which the children will be engaged.
3. Organisers are responsible for the welfare of the children for the duration of the trip
4. Young people will never be left alone and should always be adequately supervised and engaged in activities

5. Organisers should obtain, in writing, parental consent to children joining an organised trip.

Photographic Policy

North Down Athletic Club have adopted UKA Photographic Policy Guidance for Athletic Clubs and Stadiums. Please refer to separate policy document and/or for further information visit www.ukathletics.net