

# STOCKPORT HARRIERS & AC CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT



Safeguarding  
and protecting  
children in  
athletics.  
Policy  
Statement

## **Acknowledgments**

The basis for the Safeguarding Children and Young People policy and statement was developed by the UKA Welfare and Safeguarding Panel (David Brown CBE, Nikysha Ferguson, Sharon Morris and Ralph Knibbs) as well as representatives from each of the home country associations and the YKA Youth Advisory Group and was first approved by the Boards of the UKA on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and reviewed in 2016.

It has been adapted for use by all members of Stockport Harriers & Athletics Club in March 2018. The document was presented to Stockport Harriers Committee in March 2018.

The statement and policy should be reviewed every three years to ensure compliance with latest legislation and rulings.

For any further information regarding the statement, policy and its contents, please contact either of the club's Welfare Officers. Details can be found on the club website.

## **Statutory Context**

The policy statement is to be read in conjunction with the Policy and Procedures for safeguarding children and young people at Stockport Harriers & AC.

Stockport Harriers & AC has a responsibility to ensure that it makes arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who use the facilities. In discharging this responsibility, account must be taken of "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (HM Government March 2015).

## **Policy Objectives**

Everyone who takes part in athletics is entitled to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. To ensure this Athletics in the UK which encompasses UK Athletics Limited, England Athletics Limited, Welsh Athletics Limited, Scottish Athletics Limited and Athletics Northern Ireland is committed to establishing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure a safe athletics environment.

Best practise in athletics benefits everyone- the sport's governing bodies, coaches and officials, teachers, parents, carers and athletes. Most importantly, it ensures that children who choose to participate in athletics have a safe and fun experience.

Our objective is to build a safer future in athletics for all children under the age of 18 years. (In Scotland this extends until the individual's 19th birthday).

All children are entitled to a duty of care and to be protected from abuse. Abuse can occur anywhere. With over 250,000 children involved in athletics in the UK and 100,000 adults involved, the chances are very real that there are some individuals abusing their power over children in athletics.

Athletics is committed to devising, implementing and updating policies and procedures to promote best practice when working with children and to ensure that everyone in the sport understands and accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means taking action to report any concerns about their welfare. It is not the responsibility of athletics to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, this is the domain of the child protection professionals.

## **Policy Statement**

Stockport Harriers & AC in association with UK Athletics Limited, England Athletics Limited, Welsh Athletics Limited, Scottish Athletics Limited and Athletics Northern Ireland fully accept their legal and moral obligations to provide a duty of care, to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, religion or belief, sex or gender and sexual orientation.

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All individuals involved in athletics understand and accept their responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer

In order to meet this obligation Stockport Harriers & AC will:-

- Provide and enforce procedures to safeguard the well-being of all participants and protect them from abuse
- Ensure all children who take part in athletics are able to participate in a safe and fun environment
- Respect and uphold the rights, wishes and feelings of children
- Recruit, train and supervise their employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect young people from abuse, and themselves from false allegations
- Require staff/volunteers to adopt and abide by this Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Codes of Conduct and the relevant grievance, investigatory and disciplinary procedures
- Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate complaints, child protection, disciplinary and appeals procedures
- Review policies regularly

### 1.3. Terms and Abbreviations

- CPLO** Child Protection Lead Officer for UK Athletics or the nominated deputy.  
**CWO** Club Welfare Officer  
**LSCB** Local Safeguarding Children Board  
**LADO** Local Authority Designated Officer  
**DBS** Disclosure and Barring Service  
**CPSU** Child Protection in Sport Unit (NSPCC)

A **Child** is defined in The Children Act (1989) as a person under the age of 18. This is the definition used throughout this document wherever the terms **child, children** and **children and young people** are used. Unless a section of the document is stated as applying to a limited age range within this definition, it applies to the entire age range. The fact a child has reached 16 years of age, living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody, does not change his or her status or entitlement to protection under the Children Act 1989.

**A child with disabilities** may be more vulnerable and at greater risk of all forms of abuse. The presence of multiple disabilities increases the risk of both abuse and neglect. Some of the common factors that can lead to increased vulnerability include social isolation, communication and learning difficulties or disability, lack of understanding of boundaries, need for assistance with personal care and more likely target for bullying and abuse. Children with disabilities have the same rights to protection as any other child and anyone working with these children needs to be especially alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse and have strategies in place to ensure all children are able to raise concerns.<sup>1</sup>

#### **How to read the policy document**

The policy document is to be read and used as a resource by anyone who works under the umbrella of Stockport Harriers & AC with children (as defined above). This includes coaches and volunteers who may not be SHAC members but who use the facilities and/or whose athletes are members of SHAC. Throughout this document, the term “worker” means any coach or volunteer who may work with a group of children or young people from time to time, whether as a co-ordinated group or at events.

It is the responsibility of the Stockport Harriers & AC Committee to maintain the policy and monitor its usage. The members have appointed Club Welfare Officers who will perform a key role in helping the club to respond appropriately to any concerns that are raised about the safety or well-being of children at the club.

This document is intended to be read by all those people who are involved in coaching, volunteering or supporting. It will be read by all new applicants for such work and will be read by all existing workers when it is issued or whenever it is revised.

On first reading, it should be read through from beginning to end. If you are applying for a position as a coach or volunteer you may wish to read section 4 as it sets out the procedure that will be followed for your application.

It is intended to be available as a continuing resource for workers to refer to and it should be used to clarify the procedures in the event of a worker having a concern regarding Safeguarding.

#### **DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service)**

DBS Disclosures will be obtained for all those working with children and young people. All coaches and volunteers must also be members (or associate members) of Stockport Harriers & Athletics Club and England Athletics.

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<sup>1</sup>Safeguarding Disabled Children: Practice Guidance (DCSF 2009)