

 YOUTH SPORT TRUST	POLICY	Document Number: SGPo03
	SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY	Version number: 1 Updated: April 2021 Next Review Date: April 2022

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1	Policy created	Board of Trustees

Foreword

At the Youth Sport Trust (YST) we have a proud track record of delivering major events for thousands of children and young people every year and we are very clear of our safeguarding responsibilities for children and young people. As an organisation we are also aware that we have a crucial role in safeguarding adults.

We are now actively promoting this to our own employees, volunteers and trustees and all our partners with whom we work to ensure a mutual understanding of the YST standards and expectations. Like our Safeguarding Policy for working with children and young people our Safeguarding Adults Policy puts the well-being of all adults as our priority.

YST is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how adult abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.

YST is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

This updated policy document includes recent statutory guidance for all organisations providing services to adults at risk. It sets out how the YST and individuals should work together to safeguard, encourage and promote the welfare of adults at risk in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

Adopting and implementing this policy is a key requirement for the YST.



Ali Oliver

Chief Executive, Youth Sport Trust

Youth Sport Trust

Youth Sport Trust (YST) is an independent charity devoted to changing young people's lives through sport. We are passionate about helping all young people unlock their full potential through high quality, inclusive and innovative physical education and sport opportunities. Over 20 years we have developed a unique way of maximising the power of sport to grow young people, schools and communities through the development of qualities such as creativity, aspiration, resilience and empathy.

We place young people at the very centre of our approach and aim to pioneer innovative ways to engage and motivate today's young people to participate in sport, and for them to realise the positive impact it can have on their lives.

Through the power of sport, we focus on the following six key objectives that underpin everything we do:

- **Transforming physical education** - We will work with teachers, young people, parents and policymakers to maximise PE's potential to improve children's wellbeing and achievement.
- **Removing barriers to sport** - We will support schools, clubs and families to remove the causes of negative experiences for young people.
- **Unlocking potential** - We will work to close the gaps created by inequality and disadvantage, particularly at key transitional moments in a young person's life like starting or changing school and preparing for employment.
- **Empowering activism** - We will equip them with the skills, confidence and opportunities to lead change in their communities.
- **Championing insight** - We will establish a research and innovation hub which evidences improvements to children's wellbeing and achievement.
- **Strengthening foundations** - We will deliver our charitable objectives through good governance, a skilled workforce and sustainable income.

YST are aware that there has been a steady increase in the number of adults participating in our events and also being deployed as volunteers (this includes events organised and led by YST as well as events that YST endorse). As a result of this increase it is essential that we recognise our Duty of Care to safeguard both adults and children and also are aware of the different legislation in this area supporting an adult at risk of harm.

For more information on the Youth Sport Trust and the range of programmes we deliver visit our website on www.youthsporttrust.org

Safeguarding Adults Policy

“Every child and adult who participates in sport has the right to feel secure and be safe whilst experiencing a spirit of adventure, fun, excitement and a sense of belonging.”

Introduction

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) believes that all adults have the right to be engaged and inspired by sport. We also believe that all adults involved in sport should enjoy it safely, securely and protected from harm. Therefore, we are committed to ensuring that anyone working or volunteering on behalf of YST understands their mandatory responsibilities that are set out in this Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding adults and it is important to understand that safeguarding should not sit in isolation from all other activities within YST. Safeguarding is an integral part of all our work from policy and programme development through to the direct interaction with adults at risk at the events we deliver, this also includes any events where we support our partners. We will actively encourage and promote our safeguarding policy, procedures and good practice guidance to all involved in YST activities.

This Policy (like the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy) sets out the framework of best safeguarding practice when working with adults. YST will uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm, from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Principles

Like children, all adults have the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, poor practice and harm, regardless of their age, ability or disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or marital status.

YST is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Best practice in safeguarding means committing to not just a legal responsibility but also a moral responsibility. YST demonstrates this commitment by accepting its responsibilities to safeguard adults and embedding this obligation into the culture of YST.

All adults have the right to expect YST to protect them from harm. All staff members employed, or volunteers are expected to uphold and promote the following safeguarding principles:

- The welfare and well-being of each adult is and must always be our priority.
- All allegations and suspicions of harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately and ensuring the adult is at the centre of all discussions and decision.
- All individuals working with adults at risk must champion the right of every individual to participate in sport.
- All individuals will respond to a safeguarding concern or issue in line with the YST Safeguarding Adults Policy.
- Staff and volunteers will be provided with safeguarding adults training and development opportunities relevant to their role.
- Partner organisations and agencies working with the YST will agree minimum safeguarding Adults standards.
- YST recognises the roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies in relation to safeguarding adults and promoting their wellbeing. We are committed to working together with Adult Safeguarding Boards and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) complying with their procedures.

Six key principles have been enshrined within The Care Act 2014 and underpin adult safeguarding applicable to all sectors and settings. The principles should inform the ways in which professionals engage with people at risk of abuse, harm, or neglect:

- I. **Empowerment** - people are supported to make their own decisions. This is a primary difference when working with adults (rather than children) "*nothing about me without me*".
- II. **Prevention** - it is better to take action before harm occurs.
- III. **Proportionality** - an action should not be more severe than is necessary, working in the best interests of the adult but only being involved as much as required.
- IV. **Protection** - Providing support and representation for those in greatest need but to the level preferred by the adult involved.
- V. **Partnership** - Professionals working together in the best interests of the adult. Everyone involved promoting prevention, detection and reporting of neglect and abuse respecting personal and sensitive information.
- VI. **Accountability** - The adult understands the role of everyone involved in their life. All professionals and partners are accountable and transparent in their delivery of safeguarding.

These Six Principles underpin the safeguarding of adults in England.

Our Responsibilities

YST recognises its responsibilities to protect and safeguard adults.

YST will:

- Provide an environment that is healthy, safe and secure.
- Ensure everyone involved with YST is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Appoint a Lead Safeguarding Officer with overall responsibility for safeguarding and an individual with safeguarding responsibilities at all events or activities.
- Work in partnership with the adults at risk of harm to support their decisions and decision making.
- Establish a safe recruitment process for YST led events and activities which includes the management of the criminal record checking process¹.
- Provide appropriate training and support for all staff, partner organisations and agencies where relevant.
- Ensure all safeguarding concerns are responded to in line with YST policies, procedures and guidelines and take action when concerns are raised regarding staff or volunteers outside a YST event or activity.
- Take disciplinary action against those who breach YST policies.
- Share information about anyone found to be a risk to adults with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Services, Police, Local Authority/Social Services.
- Undertake an assessment of, and risk to, the safety of all adults from abuse and neglect and designate a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.
- Ensure consistency and share good practice through the YST Safeguarding Strategy Group and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Definitions

"Adult at risk of harm"

Prior to the Care Act 2014 the terminology "vulnerable adult" was used. This term came from a Department of Health guidance document "No secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse" (2000). This document defined

¹ A vetting check may be undertaken using any of the following organisations – Disclosure & Barring Service (England & Wales), AccessNI (Northern Ireland), Disclosure Scotland (Scotland) or Garda Central Vetting Unit (Republic of Ireland).

the term "vulnerable adult" and assumed that everyone that had some form of disability was automatically a vulnerable adult.

The Care Act 2014 moves away from the terminology 'vulnerable adult' to 'adults at risk of harm', usually shortened to 'adults at risk' or 'an adult with a care and support need'.

An 'adult at risk' is an individual aged 18 years or over who has need for care and support (regardless of whether they are receiving them) is experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect and unable to protect themselves from either the risk or the experience.

Abuse and Neglect

Abuse can be a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm or exploitation. The Care Act identifies the following categories of abuse:

- Self-neglect - not looking after one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings e.g. hoarding.
- Modern Slavery - including slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.
- Domestic Abuse - including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse perpetrated by anyone within a person's family. ("Honour" based violence would also be included.)
- Discriminatory - include abuse that centres on a difference or perceived difference e.g. disability, gender, race or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act.
- Organisational - includes neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting.
- Physical - including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, restraint and misuse of medication.
- Sexual - some examples include, indecent exposure, rape, sexual harassment, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- Financial or Material - theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements (in connection with wills, property, inheritance etc).
- Neglect or Acts of Omission - includes ignoring medical or physical care needs or access to appropriate health, social care or educational services. The withdrawal of the necessities of life, including medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Emotional or Psychological - including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation, or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Four Additional Types of Harm not included in The Care Act but relevant to safeguarding adults:

- Cyber Bullying - occurs when someone (the perpetrator) repeatedly makes fun of another person online, through emails or text messages.
- Forced Marriage - describes a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will.
- Mate Crime - "when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go onto exploit and take advantage of them" (Safety Network Project, ARC).
- Radicalisation - to inspire new recruits, embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals to the legitimacy of a cause (through social media or a relationship).

Decision Making on behalf of the Adult

Each home nation has legislation about circumstances in which decisions can be made on behalf of an adult who is unable to make decisions for themselves

- England and Wales - The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Scotland - Adults with Incapacity Act 2000
- Mental Capacity (Northern Ireland) 2016

Unless a formal assessment of the adult has been made by a qualified practitioner (e.g. Doctor, mental health nurse) it should be assumed that the adult has capacity to make their own decisions.

Monitoring of the Policy

YST Safeguarding Adults Policy has been approved by the YST Board of Trustees and will be regularly monitored with a full Policy review taking annually. The following may also evoke a review of the policy:

- Any changes in legislation
- Any changes in governance of YST
- The result of a significant case (involving the YST or a Serious Case Review nationally).

The policy accompanies YST's Equality and Diversity Policy, Safeguarding Young People and Children's Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy.

Implementation

The YST will work with the Ann Craft Trust to ensure we address our core safeguarding responsibilities related to adults.

The YST Safeguarding Adults Policy is an UK policy and has been written with this in mind. The YST Safeguarding Adults Policy can be transferred to all home countries of the UK, but the YST recognises that there are legislative differences. However, the guiding principles underpinning legislation remain the same. For example, when any references are made to the following:

The Care Act 2014 - The corresponding legislation in:

- Northern Ireland is the Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership 2015
- Scotland is the Adult Support and Protection Act 2007
- Wales is the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014

YST implementation of their Safeguarding Adults Policy will be led by the Safeguarding Strategy Group, a representative group from across the Youth Sport Trust chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Covid-19 and Safeguarding

The Covid-19 Pandemic has led to a number of changes to the way we work and engage with adults. There are unlikely to be many new instances of abuse or poor practice from the work that YST are currently leading or supporting. However, safeguarding is still a priority and all staff continue to have a safeguarding responsibility. Cases that could be shared with staff may be related to incidents that happened in the past - including time spent in lockdown. The Safeguarding Adults Policy, Procedures and Guidelines should be followed in all cases.