

North Coast Watersports Child Protection Policy

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 states that each child has the right to protection from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation. It also states that children should have the right to express their views on any issues or decisions affecting them.

Child protection is the responsibility of everyone. These guidelines set a clear framework of action for all who are involved in the welfare, care and protection of children.

What is Child Abuse?

Children may be in need of protection where their basic needs are not being met, in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development, and they will be at risk through avoidable acts of commission or omission on the part of the parents, siblings or other relative, or a carer.

This means children may be at risk through either something a person has done to them OR something a person is failing to do for them. This can be broken down into the following categories:

Physical injury

Sexual abuse

Emotional abuse

Physical neglect (shelter, clothing, etc)

Non-organic failure to thrive (growth, weight inhibited but no medical reasons)

What do you do if a child reports abuse?

This is a difficult situation but it may have taken a lot of courage for a child to speak out so ensure you stay calm;

- Allow the child to speak, do not interrupt nor make suggestions to them
- Reassure the child you are glad they have told what has happened and that it is right to tell. Take what they say seriously.
- Do not interrogate or question other than to clarify your understanding, spare them having to repeat themselves over and over again
- Be honest, tell the child that you cannot keep it a secret and you have to pass on the information to help them.
- As soon as is practical write down everything the child told you, remember this is a confidential matter. The only person you should discuss this with is the designated person you have been directed to contact in this situation.

How to Report Abuse -

If you suspect that a child has been or is at risk of being abused you must report it immediately to your immediate supervisor (Lifeguard). If the report has been from a child then follow the steps described above.

Lifeguards:

If a case is reported to you then you must follow the Councils Trigger Matrix for reporting. You must report to the Beach Supervisor immediately. If she/he is not contactable, please take on the Manager's role detailed below.

Beach Supervisor

On receiving information of abuse, you must report this to the Child Protection Coordinator; Depending on severity it may be necessary to contact the Police and Social work immediately.

Useful Numbers

Social Work (Out of Hrs) 07867907741 / 01463 716663 Northern Constabulary HQ 01955 603551

Children's services 0300 200 1006

Measures NCW take to ensure Maximum Protection Policy:

- 1.1 Protection Vulnerable Groups Schemes (PVG S) are required for all executive members and also for adults who regularly access the children e.g. coaches. If an adult helps on more than two occasions or is likely to do so a PVG S is required.
- 1.2. We have a laminated Child Protection Policy in the surfing van.
- 1.3 Children will need to be aware surfing is not a sport without risks and injuries may and do occur. Children may need help initially getting into wetsuits and sometimes getting out of wetsuits. We will require disclaimers for these activities.
- 1.4 All members will need to sign waivers as part of the process of using our services. For minors, their parents/responsible will sign on their behalf.

1.4 If parents are uncomfortable with NCW's coaches helping their children get in and out of wetsuits they will need to be present themselves to help until such times as the child can manage alone.