

Child Protection Procedures

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR USE IN ALL CASES OF ALLEGED/SUSPECTED ABUSE
[Third edition, 2008]



'YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST'

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm

Scouting is a safe place for young people and we can keep it safe by:

- ✓ Taking into account the interests and well-being of young people
- ✓ Respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of young people
- ✓ Taking all reasonable steps to protect young people from harm
- ✓ Promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust

Remember...

...it is the responsibility of all adults to ensure that their behaviour is appropriate at all times. Every adult should have a copy of the 'Young People First' Code of Behaviour (yellow card).

Adults in Scouting work closely with young people and get to know them well. Scouters are trusted, see changes in young people's behaviour and concerns may be shared with them.

Group Scout Leaders and County / Area / Regional Commissioners (Scotland)
will also need to be aware of the procedures that District Commissioners will follow

"What happens if..."

All allegations or suspicions of abuse - no matter how insignificant they might seem or when/where they occur - must be referred to the District Commissioner immediately. No information must be withheld or filtered. Young peoples' welfare is always paramount.

District Commissioners will normally receive allegations or suspicions of abuse from Group Scout Leaders or other adults. Occasionally, parents/carers of young people may also raise concerns. Once advised, District Commissioners must follow the procedures overleaf.

District Commissioners must consult the Safeguarding Team at Headquarters in the event of any safeguarding concern being raised – however insignificant it may seem.

If the District Commissioner is implicated in any way, the referral must be made to the County / Area / Regional Commissioner (Scotland) or the Safeguarding Team at HQ.

No investigation or questioning is to be undertaken. We are not an investigation agency. The statutory authorities are best placed to take any necessary action.

You must refer; you must not investigate

These procedures apply to all adults in Scouting and **must** be followed

Procedures following allegation or suspicion of child abuse

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE – ALWAYS WITHIN 24 HRS

Write down notes:

- Dates, times, facts, observations (verbatim speech if possible)
- Try to ensure that you have all relevant details recorded



Contact the Safeguarding Team:

- 0845 300 1818 / 020 8433 7164 (includes 'out-of- hours' system for urgent calls)
- Expect to be asked for details of all involved and copies of any notes/reports
- Agree an action plan with the Safeguarding Team
- Policy requires that all allegations/suspicions are referred to statutory agencies



Contact County / Area / Regional Commissioner (Scotland):

Tel:

- Inform of issue and action plan agreed with the Safeguarding Team
- Inform NIHQ / SHQ / Field Commissioner (Wales), where appropriate



Follow advice & prepare a confidential file

- Take no further action unless advised to do so
- Record all notes, all conversations and advice received
- Ensure you date, time and sign your notes

If a child is at imminent risk of significant harm you should IMMEDIATELY contact the police by ringing 999

You should then follow the procedures, as detailed above