

Safeguarding Policy

Effective from: 01/04/2024

Policy Statement

StayActive Allstars is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults who participate in our activities. We recognise our responsibility to promote safe practice and protect individuals from harm, abuse, or neglect. This policy outlines our approach to handling safeguarding concerns and ensuring they are appropriately addressed in compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, coaches, club members, and visitors associated with StayActive Allstars. It also includes any external instructors, contractors, or participants using the leisure centre facilities during our sessions.

Definitions

- Safeguarding: Protecting children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm, ensuring they grow up in a safe environment.
- Cause for Concern: Any behaviour, incident, or disclosure that suggests a child, young person, or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm or abuse.

Recognising a Cause for Concern

A cause for concern might arise in the following situations:

1. A child or young person discloses abuse or neglect.
2. Signs of physical abuse (e.g., bruises, burns) or emotional harm are noticed.
3. A member of staff witnesses concerning interactions or behaviours.
4. A child exhibits changes in behaviour that may indicate distress or harm.
5. Reports from third parties (e.g., parents, other members) suggest possible safeguarding issues.

Responding to a Cause for Concern

1. Immediate Safety:

- If the individual is in immediate danger, contact emergency services (999). Ensure the individual is in a safe environment until help arrives.

2. Listening and Reassurance:

- If a child or vulnerable person discloses an issue:
 - Listen carefully without interrupting.
 - Avoid leading questions or making assumptions.
 - Reassure them that they are being taken seriously and have done the right thing by speaking up.
 - Do not promise confidentiality - explain that the concern will be shared with appropriate individuals to ensure their safety.

3. Recording the Concern:

- Complete the club - Safeguarding Incident Report Form immediately. Include:
 - Names and contact details of those involved.
 - Date, time, and location of the incident or disclosure.
 - A factual account of what was observed or said. Avoid personal opinions or assumptions.
 - Details of any actions taken at the time (e.g., who was informed).
 - Sign and date the report.

4. Reporting the Concern:

- Notify the clubs designated safeguarding officer (DSO) as soon as possible. If the DSO is unavailable or implicated, escalate to British Gymnastics - safeguarding lead.
- Contact information: <https://www.british-gymnastics.org/safesport/safeguarding#02>
- Club DSO: Tom Day stayactiveallstars@gmail.com

5. Confidentiality:

- Information regarding the concern must be shared on a need-to-know basis only. Breaching confidentiality could jeopardise an investigation.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):

- Ensure all safeguarding concerns are handled appropriately.
- Liaise with local safeguarding authorities where necessary.
- Maintain accurate records of concerns and actions taken.
- Provide safeguarding advice and training to club members and staff.

2. Club Members, Staff, and Volunteers:

- Be vigilant and report concerns promptly.
- Attend safeguarding training as required.
- Promote a culture of safety and respect within the club.

3. Leisure Centre Management:

- Support safeguarding procedures and liaise with external authorities if required.
- Ensure a safe environment within the facility.

Training

All staff, coaches, and volunteers will undergo safeguarding training appropriate to their role. This training will be refreshed every [2-3 years] or as required by governing bodies.

Whistleblowing

If a staff member feels a concern has not been properly addressed or is not confident in raising the matter internally, they are encouraged to escalate the issue directly to the local authority or NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline (0800 028 0285).

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, best practices, or governing body guidance changes. Feedback from staff, members, and safeguarding incidents will inform updates.

Contact Information for External Support

- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111

By implementing this safeguarding cause for concern policy, StayActive Allstars reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants.

Approved by: Tom Day. Director StayActive Allstars

Date: 01/04/2024