

The 1st Dullingham and Stetchworth Scout Group

Safeguarding Policy

Policy Owner: Group Scoutmaster (GSM).

1. Purpose

The 1st Dullingham and Stetchworth Scout Group ('The Group') is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members, who, at all times, are required to show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of Scouting. It is our policy to safeguard the welfare of all children by protecting them from neglect, physical, sexual, and emotional harm.

2. Scope

This policy covers:

- Children aged 6–18 years.
- Adult members, Leaders, Volunteers and Helpers

3. Training and compliance

All adult members (over 18 years old) of The Group shall be approved through a system of checks including a DBS disclosure (DBS to be updated every five years). This includes 'helpers' defined as non-uniformed parents or carers who attend meetings to assist on a regular basis and any adult who attends residential nights away.

Uniformed leaders will be issued with a warrant, helpers as defined above a letter/certificate of appointment on receipt of a 'clean' DBS certificate.

All adult members (over 18 years old) of The Group and must attend a Safeguarding Training Session every two years. A warranted leader must be in attendance at each Colony, Pack, Troop or Group activity. No adult will be one to one with any child at any time.

4. Adult leader ratios

The following are the mandatory minimum ratios of adult leaders/adult helpers to be present in all circumstances, always with a minimum of two adult leaders:

- Beavers & Wolf Cubs – one adult per six Beavers or Wolf Cubs
- Scouts & Senior Scouts – one adult per eight Scouts or Senior Scouts



These should be regarded as minimums; a higher ratio of adult oversight should always be considered when undertaking certain activities, particularly in the outdoors, and in unfamiliar territory (see Health and Safety Policy).

5. Legislative context

In the context of children, the relevant legislation is contained in the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014. The UK is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which outlines the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Safeguarding children includes:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- ensuring that a child's health or development is not impaired
- ensuring that a child is growing up in circumstances of a safe environment
- taking action to ensure that all children have the best life chances

In the context of adults, safeguarding is defined in the Care Act 2014 as *"Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is a multi-agency responsibility that aims to prevent harm, stop abuse, and promote individual well-being"*.

6. Examples of abuse

Examples of abuse where those holding positions of responsibility should be vigilant include Neglect, Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse, Sexual Exploitation, Bullying including Cyberbullying, Domestic Violence, Drugs, Fabricated or induced Illness, Faith abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage, Gangs and Youth Violence, Radicalisation, Sexting, Trafficking and in the context of minors, Children missing from Education.

7. Guidance

The following guidance is given by the Baden-Powell Scout Association in its online training. It is not a substitute for that training which is mandatory for adult leaders and adult helpers of The Group every two years.

What would you do if a child/young person tells you about abuse?

- Look at the child directly
- Listen Listen Listen



- Let them know if, and why, you are going to tell anyone
- Assume the child has been threatened.
- Try to find out what they may be afraid of

What helpful things could you say to the child/young person?

- I believe you
- I am glad that you told me
- It's not your fault
- I care, and I will help
- You are brave/right/ to tell and it is ok to tell
- The abuser was wrong

What would you try to avoid saying to the child/young person?

- Why? How? When? Where? Who? Are you sure? Why didn't you say before?
- I can't believe it!
- Statement such as 'this is really serious'
- 'Don't tell anyone else'
- 'I'm shocked'.
- False promises

What would you say to finish the conversation?

- Tell them again that you believe them
- Let them know what you are going to do and what is going to happen next
- Praise the child for telling and for surviving the abuse – end on a positive note

8. Recording and Reporting Procedures

Recording and reporting

- Record facts only (as given to you)
- Your details
- Time date and place of reporting
- Details of the person making disclosure
- Personal details (as known to you) of child allegedly abuse



Who do you report to?

- A safe person, Group Scoutmaster or other adult leader
- Cambridgeshire Children's Social Care Service Centre tel 0345 045 5203
- NSPCC tel 0808 800500
- Report findings safely and in such a way that will not put the child in any danger

If you feel the child is in immediate danger and always where there are allegations of sexual abuse the police must be informed

9. Review and Compliance

- Policy reviewed annually
- All leaders will be made aware of the policy and responsibilities

Approved by:

Acknowledgement by Leaders

I have read and understood the policy. I agree to follow it and report any concerns.

Name	Role	Signature	Date

Safeguarding Policy Review Sheet

Date	Reviewed By	Key Changes Made	Next Review Date

