

# SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY



## Newbury Riding for the Disabled

There has been an increasing awareness over recent years that some individuals who want to harm and abuse children will use charitable organisations, such as Riding for the Disabled, as a vehicle to gain access to children.

NRD fully accepts its legal and moral obligation to protect children in the course of its work and it is our policy to make every reasonable safeguard to protect those who are involved in any aspect of our work.

In pursuit of this, NRD is committed to ensuring that:

- The welfare of children is paramount,
- All children are able to participate in a fun and safe environment,
- All children have the right to protection from physical, sexual and emotional harm and from neglect and bullying,
- All reasonable and practical steps are taken to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment; respecting children's rights, wishes and feelings,
- All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately,
- All trustees, employees and volunteers have a responsibility to report any concerns with regards to child protection matters. It is the responsibility of experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns,
- NRD has appointed a designated trustee or delegated volunteer/employee to be a Group Safeguarding Officer,
- Safeguarding Officers and other relevant staff/volunteers receive appropriate training and guidance on child protection.

Therefore, we have minimum standards in place and each RDA group must:

- Have a safeguarding policy which is in line with RDA UK's requirements
- Have a designated Safeguarding Officer
- Have a safe recruitment process in place including staff/volunteer application forms, the collection of two references and disclosure checks at the appropriate level for anyone aged 16 or over who is involved in NRD sessions; renewed every 3 years
- Have a clear and robust procedure for responding and reporting to indicators or allegations of abuse or poor practice
- Ensure all Safeguarding Officers and Coaches attend a recognised face to face safeguarding workshop with refresher training taken every 3 years

As defined in the Children Act 1989, for the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered a child. All organisations, which provide for children, should be able to demonstrate the existence, implementation and effectiveness of child protection policies.

The policies and procedures apply to everyone within NRD, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including trustees, committee members and designated medical and veterinary staff. Everyone should be aware of the child protection procedures and best practices and ensure they are implemented.

## **Legal and Procedural Framework**

The practices and procedures within NRD are based on the principles contained within the UK and International legislation and Government guidance taking the following into account:

### **England & Wales**

Children Acts 1989 & 2004

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989

The European Convention on Human Rights 1950

Police Act 1997

Data Protection Act 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2018)

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Sexual Offences (Amendments) Act 2003

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Care Act 2014 - implemented March 2015

Information Sharing Advice - March 2015

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused.

March 2015 Procedures set out by the local Safeguarding Children Boards

### **Scotland**

Children (Scotland) Act 1995

Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001

Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007

Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014

### **Northern Ireland**

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

Safeguarding Board Act (Northern Ireland) 2001

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967