



Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

2023-2024



INTRODUCTION AND POLICY STATEMENT

The Warehouse Climbing Centre recognises that Child Safeguarding in sport is paramount.

This policy is addressed to all Warehouse instructors & other staff, volunteers, parents, guardians and any other adult who comes into direct or indirect contact with children.

The purpose of this Policy is to demonstrate the commitment of The Warehouse to safeguarding children and young people and to ensure that everyone involved in the centre is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding children and young people.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding children and young people.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of a child /young person.

This Policy was created in line with the requirements of legislation from the Children's Act 1989 and 2004 and the "Working together to safeguard children" Statutory guidance.

For the safeguarding of Adults, we directly follow the safeguarding policy as set by the British Mountaineering Council (BMC):

Adults working with children have responsibility to provide a safe environment. It is not our responsibility to decide whether or not a child is being abused - but it is our responsibility to act if we have any concerns.

Reporting Concerns

The Warehouse has a designated **Safeguarding Officer**, Jeremy Chapman (General Manager) along with senior support staff, Rowan Taylor (Climbing Supervisor). Direct contact to our Safeguarding Officer can be made via email on safeguarding@the-warehouse.co.uk or by calling The Warehouse telephone number on **01452 302351** and pressing **Option 9** to be put through to Jeremy.

Our staff are trained to NSPCC Safeguarding in Sport standards and receive regular update training.

Our Safeguarding team follow the procedures as set by the CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit).

Our Commitment

- The Warehouse Climbing Centre is committed to ensuring, and believes, that all children and young people have the right to be, and feel, safe in an enjoyable environment free from abuse. We have a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people, keeping them free from harm with the help and support of everyone.
- It is mandatory for all staff and volunteers working with children and young people to comply with this Policy, Our Codes of Conduct, associated guidelines and procedures.
- The Warehouse will support anyone who, in good faith, reports their concerns that a child/children or young person/people, may be, or actually is being abused and will make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned, and will only share on a need-to-know basis.

| Assessor/Reviewer Name | Job Title | Signature | Date | Review Date |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Jeremy Chapman | General Manager | | 20/12/2023 | 20/12/2024 |
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General Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount and will underpin all guidance.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all safeguarding concerns must be reported in a timely manner. Remember that it is not your responsibility to decide if poor practice or abuse has taken place, it is your responsibility to report the concern. It is the responsibility of safeguarding experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place.
- Provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care and responsibility of our staff.
- Everyone must ensure there is a culture where children are listened to and respected as individuals.
- All safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately and in a timely manner.
- Give guidance and support, when required, to all users of the centre and all involved in the delivery of activities for young people.
- Ensure all children, regardless of their age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, have a positive and enjoyable experience and are protected from abuse. Some people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- We recognise that working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young peoples' welfare.

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Providing effective management for staff/volunteers through supervision, support & training.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families and staff at The Warehouse.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment (bearing in mind any risks conducive with the pursuance of the activities we provide) for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

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