

Safeguarding Policy

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all our children, young people and adults by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual and emotional harm. 8th Bridgnorth Scout Group understands that individuals thrive in safe surroundings and we are committed to ensuring that Scouting is safe and enjoyable for everyone involved and that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with Scout Association best practice and The Charity Commission requirements.

This policy:

- a. applies to all adults including the Trustee Board members, volunteers, paid staff, agency staff and anyone working on behalf of the Group;
- b. recognises that the welfare and interests of children, young people and adults are paramount in all circumstances; and
- c. aims to ensure that all children, young people and adults have a positive and enjoyable experience of Scouting in a safe and person-centred environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in Scouting and otherwise.

The Scout Association acknowledges that some children, young people and adults, including those disabled and those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and accepts the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

8th Bridgnorth Scout Group will:

1. ensure all adults involved in Scouting have read and understood the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, adhere to them at all times and follow the Code of Behaviour (Young People First and Yellow Card)
2. ensure all breaches of the policy and procedures will be dealt with in line with POR and the Safeguarding Processes and Procedures
3. promote and prioritise the safety and well-being of all members
4. ensure that everyone is clear about their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate mandatory learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people;
5. provide all children and young people on joining the organisation with information for themselves and their parents or carers covering The Scout Association's safeguarding arrangements;
6. ensure that trustees, staff and volunteers take seriously all concerns and allegations of abuse and respond appropriately;
7. securely maintain and store confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns;
8. ensure all adult volunteers are vetted to ensure that: only adults appropriate for a role are permitted to undertake responsibilities in Scouting; and that regular reviews are undertaken of adult volunteers to ensure their continued suitability
9. prevent the use of unsuitable individuals through the robust use of Disclosure and Barring arrangements and apply best practice in the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers working with children and young people;
10. provide a named contact (normally the Group Scout Leader) who accepts responsibility for the application of the Safeguarding Policy

Young People First

As adults in Scouts, the safety of young people is our priority. We are committed to:

- Taking the interests and well-being of young people into account, in all our considerations and activities.
- Respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom we work.
- Taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
- Promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a position of trust.

Code of Practice (Yellow Card)

- Do remember that you are a role model at ALL times, inside and outside Scouting. Set a good example for others to follow.
- Do treat everyone with dignity and respect in line with the Scouting Values
- Do treat all young people equally - do not show favouritism
- Do follow the adult-to-young person ratios at all times
- Do remember that you have been placed in a position of trust - do not abuse this
- Do report all allegations, suspicions and concerns immediately
- Do remember that someone may misinterpret your actions
- Do respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- Do act within appropriate boundaries, even in difficult circumstances
- Do encourage an open and transparent culture, where people can challenge inappropriate attitudes or behaviours
- Do make everyone (young people, parents and carers, Young Leaders and other helpers) aware of our safeguarding arrangements and share our Yellow Card - our Code of Behaviour
- Do create an environment where young people feel safe to voice their concerns
- Do have separate sleeping accommodation for young people, adults and Young Leaders working with a younger section
- Do plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least within sight and hearing of others.
- Do not plan to be alone with a young person.
- Do not drink alcohol when you are directly responsible for young people and never allow young people on Scouting activities to drink alcohol
- Do not trivialise abuse or let it go unreported
- Do not join in physical contact games with young people
- Do not overstep the boundaries between yourself and young people by engaging in friendships or sexual relationships
- Do not allow activities that encourage bullying behaviour including initiation ceremonies, dares or forfeits
- Do not use inappropriate, suggestive or threatening language, whether verbal, written or online
- Do not rely on your reputation or position to protect you

Reporting a concern

If a young person is at immediate risk of significant harm call 999 and request Police. Inform your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner once you have done this. If you are in any doubt about what to do, contact the Scout Information Centre: 0345 300 1818

8th Bridgnorth Scout Group designated **Safeguarding Contact** is the Group Scout Leader:

Megan Turner

GSL@bridgnorthscouts.org.uk

07966 910148

This policy will be reviewed annually and revisions recommended to the Trustee Board. This policy may also be reviewed in the following circumstances: changes in legislation or government guidance (including Working Together as revised within each nation, relevant legislative changes and nation specific child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures); as required by the Charity Commission; and as a result of any other significant change or event.