

Safeguarding children and young people policy



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Version:	4	Reason:	Update
Approved by:	Activity Alliance Board	Approved date:	September 2023
Review date:	January 2026	Reviewer:	Safeguarding lead

If you require this document in a different format, please contact Info@activityalliance.co.uk.

Foreword

Activity Alliance is the leading voice for disabled people in sport and activity. Established in 1998 as a national charity, we were previously known as the English Federation of Disability Sport.

Our vision is fairness for disabled people in sport and activity. It is not right or fair that disabled people are the least active in our society. Sport and activity play a significant role in our nation's health. We want to create a fairer society for everyone. A place where everyone can be active however and wherever they want to be.

Everything we do is underpinned by our shared values. They shape our work and support us to embed a strong dynamic culture across our organisation.

We care – we are passionate about what we do, and who we do it for.

We unite – we collaborate with others to achieve greater outcomes.

We champion – we recognise everyone's voice must be heard if we are to provide equitable places to live, work and thrive.

Crucial to our success in achieving our vision is ensuring that any participation opportunity always provides a safe, inclusive, friendly and enjoyable experience for all participants, which puts the welfare of disabled people as a priority.

We know that everyone working with children and young people are in a position of trust and we take that responsibility very seriously. With this in mind, Activity Alliance have developed comprehensive safeguarding policy, procedures and good practice guidance to promote to everyone we support. Many partners and stakeholders already have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to cover the welfare and duty of care requirements for children and young people. This policy is intended to enhance, support and provide clear guidance for all our partners and stakeholders alongside all Activity Alliance staff and volunteers.

This policy document includes statutory guidance for all organisations providing services to children and young people. It sets out how Activity Alliance and individuals should work together to safeguard, encourage and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. Adopting and implementing this policy is key for Activity Alliance.

Adam Blaze
Chief Executive
Activity Alliance

Activity Alliance safeguarding policy

Activity Alliance work with many amazing organisations, groups, and individuals and we are at the centre of influential programmes for disabled people.

Our teams work across various specialisms driving change in disability, inclusion, and sport. However, the reality is that disabled people are the least active group in society and we all must do more to change this negative picture.

Safeguarding is a priority for Activity Alliance, and we are committed to promoting the safety and welfare of all disabled people involved in sport and activity. With this in mind, Activity Alliance have developed a comprehensive safeguarding policy, procedures, and good practice guidance to promote to everyone we support.

The aim of this is to ensure we all advocate for and promote the welfare of all children and young people and their rights to be protected from harm.

As part of that commitment, we have developed a comprehensive safeguarding policy, procedures and good practice guidance to promote to everyone we support. This enables all partners, stakeholders, staff and volunteers to understand their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. This includes what they should do if a safeguarding concern arises (directly or indirectly) and how any concerns will be managed in line with government guidance ([Working together to safeguard children](#)) the law and Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) requirements.

This policy applies to everyone that engages in the support, planning and/or delivery of participation opportunities, sporting sessions or activities that involve children and young people, including as volunteers.

Any activity promoted, endorsed, or run by Activity Alliance must comply with these policies and procedures and have a safeguarding welfare plan. [You can download copies of our safeguarding policies and resources on the Activity Alliance website.](#)

Activity Alliance requires that safeguarding children and young people sits within a framework. This is based on the [NSPCC Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport](#), the [NSPCC Safe Sport Events, Activities and Competitions guidance](#) and [Sport England Governance requirements](#). It includes having:

- An overarching safeguarding policy, procedures and implementation plan.
- A safeguarding welfare plan for all activities.
- Guidance on prevention and best practice, including safe recruitment and vetting.
- Policy, procedures, and systems for responding to concerns.
- Codes of conduct.
- A commitment to Inclusion, equity diversity.
- Training and development.
- Access to advice and support.

Legal framework

This document has been written based on the following laws, reviews and guidance that seek to protect children, young people and adults at risk.

- [The Whyte Review](#) – The Review was commissioned following a number of deeply concerning reports about the treatment of gymnasts, from grassroots through to the elite end of the sport, with a view to understanding the experiences of those gymnasts and determining any required change.
- [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)
- [Positions of Trust guidance](#) – As of 28 June 2022, the law in England and Wales states that those in a position of trust in sports organisations, such as a coach, cannot legally have a sexual relationship with young people they look after, under 18 years old.
- [Online Safety Bill 2023](#)
- [Children Act 1989](#)
- [United Convention of rights of the Child 1991](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [Children Act 2004](#)
- [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
- [Protection Freedom Act 2012](#)
- [Children and Families Act 2014](#)
- [Special educational needs and disability \(SEND\) code practice: 0-25 years](#) – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014.
- [Information sharing](#) – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents, and carers; HM Government 2015.
- [Working together to safeguard children](#) – HM Government 2018.
- [Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children](#). Updated July 2022.

The above policy should be read alongside our [safeguarding policies, procedures and good practice guidance found here on the Activity Alliance website](#).

Definition of children

Children/young people are defined as anyone aged under 18. Safeguarding children and young people, and promoting their welfare means protecting them from maltreatment, preventing the loss of their health and development. It also means ensuring that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Children may experience harm in many ways, including through physical abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, emotional harm and neglect. They may also be harmed through bullying (peer abuse, cyber, sexting and internet abuse), poor coaching, teaching practice or

through circumstances in which they are living, such as domestic abuse, parents with mental health or substance abuse issues.

Deaf and disabled children may have additional needs that must be considered when planning safe activities as well as potentially facing additional risks of abuse. These needs may include:

- Access to facilities.
- Adapted or modified equipment.
- Inclusive coaching practices or aspects of the activity.
- Provision of trained staff/volunteers to support them.

[More information can be downloaded from the CPSU website.](#)

What to do if you are worried about a child

Speak to the NSPCC if you are concerned about a child's welfare. Whether you want to report child abuse and neglect, or are not sure what to do, the NSPCC are there to listen, offer advice and support, and can take the next steps if a child is in danger.

The NSPCC helpline is currently operating between the hours of 10am and 4pm from Monday to Friday. However, you can also email help@NSPCC.org.uk at any time. It's free and you can remain anonymous.

[NSPCC](#)

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

Text: 88858

If you think a child is in immediate danger dial 999 straight away to contact the police.

[Activity Alliance](#)

If the concern is an allegation relating to an adult who is working/volunteering or used to work at any Activity Alliance activity, then you will still need to follow the [Activity Alliance Safeguarding reporting structure](#). You can also contact our safeguarding team using the details below:

Jannine Walker

Activity Alliance Lead Officer

Email: jannine@activityalliance.org.uk

Phone: 07725 273158

Rob Belbin

Activity Alliance Board Safeguarding Lead

Email: rob@activityalliance.org.uk

Agata Sromecka
Activity Alliance Safeguarding support
Email: info@activityalliance.org.uk
Phone: 01509 227752

Helen Derby
Activity Alliance Deputy Officer
Email: helend@activityalliance.org.uk
Phone: 07764 291662

Activity Alliance safeguarding principles

The Activity Alliance Safeguarding policy is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of disabled children and young people is paramount, as [the Children Act 1989](#) and [the Children Act 2004](#) states. Alongside the government's framework 2018: [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).
- All disabled people, regardless of age, ability, culture, gender, language, race, ethnicity, religious belief, nationality, social/economic status and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All disabled people have the right to participate in sport and activities in an enjoyable and safe environment that takes account of their individual support, physical and or social development needs.
- All incidents of suspected/alleged poor practice or abuse should be taken seriously, be responded to swiftly and appropriately, and in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) multi-agency policy and procedures.
- Confidentiality will be upheld in line with Data Protection and Human Rights legislation, but our priority will be safeguarding disabled children and adults who may be at risk.
- The creation and promotion of a culture/environment in which children and young people are valued and their right to be safe is upheld.
- Ensure steps are taken to minimise risks of harm to children and young people involved in activities.
- Work together with other organisations that have a responsibility for safeguarding and the protection of children and young people, including information sharing when concerns arise.
- Provide, champion and promote an environment that is healthy, safe and secure.
- Activity Alliance acknowledge and advocate that deliverers may require additional training and advice to ensure they include and safeguard deaf and disabled people appropriately.
- Activity Alliance recognises that deaf and disabled young people can be more vulnerable than other non-disabled children and young people and that they and their families may need more information and support.
- Some children and young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

- Additional barriers can exist when detecting the abuse or neglect of disabled children and young people and can create additional safeguarding challenges that are sometimes not recognised, in particular:
 - Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury can relate to the child's disability or additional need without further exploration.
 - Disabled people have an increased likelihood of social isolation.
 - Disabled people are disproportionately impacted by bullying.
 - Disabled people have fewer outside contacts than non-disabled people.
 - Disabled people depend on others for practical assistance in daily living, including intimate care.
 - Some disabled people's speech and language communication needs may make it difficult to tell others what is happening.
- We are committed to using the [Activity Alliance 'talk to me' principles](#) throughout our safeguarding policies, procedures and good practice to support looking beyond standard demographics and creating a child-centred approach to safeguarding. This child centred approach is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. A child-centred approach means keeping the child in focus when making decisions about their active lives and working in partnership with them and their families.

The [Activity Alliance talk to me report](#) outlines 10 principles that providers, organisations, deliverers and supporters can follow to help make their sport or activity more appealing to, and supportive of, disabled people.

Our responsibility

Activity Alliance is committed to a child and young person-centred approach to safeguarding. Activity Alliance will:

- Have a lead officer, deputies and board member for safeguarding.
- Ensure all staff undertake basic safeguarding training and more comprehensive safeguarding training where the remit of the role requires this.
- Require all those working for, volunteering at, or attending Activity Alliance activities to sign up to the [Activity Alliance staff and volunteers code of conduct](#) and read the [Activity Alliance Event Welfare Plan](#).
- We require all those working, volunteering or who have contact with children and young people to be confident and aware to ensure risk of harm to children is minimal.
- Where concerns about children and young people's welfare arise, those who are working with, volunteering with or who have contact with children and young people must be aware of the reporting process – please see ([Activity Alliance Responding to a Safeguarding Concern](#)) They should take appropriate action to respond to and share those concerns within Activity Alliance and in some cases with other partner organisations e.g. clubs, schools, NGBs (National Governing Bodies), APs (Active Partnerships), DPULOs (Disabled People User Led Organisations) and local statutory agencies.

- Act against those who breach Activity Alliance policies.
- Ensure consistency and share good practice throughout Activity Alliance and the partners we support.
- Continue to review, monitor, and update Activity Alliance safeguarding policies in line with government advice.

Further information

The following websites all contain excellent support and resources to assist you with your learning and development.

[NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit \(CPSU\)](#)

A partnership between the NSPCC, Sport England, Sport Northern Ireland and Sport Wales. The Unit was founded in 2001 to work with UK Sports Councils, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) and other organisations to help them minimise the risk of child abuse during sporting activities.

[Child Exploitation and Online Protection \(CEOP\)](#)

Dedicated to eradicating the sexual abuse of children. It specialises in reporting internet abuse and has training and support resources to help you with internet and other safety issues.

[Safe Network](#)

Provides information to any voluntary group, individual or organisation, once you register (it is free) you can download lots of resources to assist you in developing policies or guidance.

[National Association for People Abused in Childhood \(NAPAC\)](#)

Provides help and support for people who were abused in childhood.

Phone: 0808 801 0331

Email: support@napac.org.uk

[Ann Craft Trust \(ACT\)](#)

A national organisation, funded by Sport England collaborating with staff in the statutory, independent, and voluntary sectors in the interests of people with learning disabilities who may be at risk from abuse.

Phone: 0115 951 5400

Email: ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk

[Hourglass](#)

National organisation who aim to prevent the abuse of older people by raising awareness, encouraging education, promoting research, and collecting and disseminating information.

Phone: 0808 808 8141

Email: enquiries@wearehourglass.org

[Carers Direct](#)

If you are a carer, the helpline advisers can give you information to help make decisions about your personal support needs and the needs of the person you are looking after.

Phone: 0203 904 4520

Email: info@carersdirect.org

[Rethink](#)

For practical information and support around mental health.

Phone: 0808 801 8582

[The Samaritans](#)

Emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicide.

Phone: 116 123

Email: jo@samaritans.org

[Social Care Institute](#)

Improves the lives of people of all ages by co-producing, sharing, and supporting the use of the best available knowledge and evidence about what works in practice.

Phone: 0203 840 4040

Email: info@scie.org.uk

[Sport and Recreation Alliance](#)

Provides useful information on among other things changes to legislation and guidance around safe recruitment, safeguarding adults.

Phone: 020 7976 3900

Email: info@sportandrecreation.org.uk