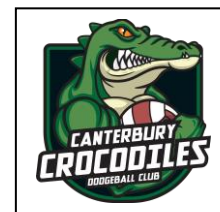


Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy



Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball Club is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and accepts our responsibility to safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved with our club, in accordance with the Care Act 2014. We will ensure that our working practices minimise the risk of such abuse to adults at risk. All members have a duty to identify abuse and report it to the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer in person, via e-mail or by completing a safeguarding referral form.

Definition

Adults at Risk (previously referred to as Vulnerable adults) are people who are 18 years of age or more and have needs for care and support, whether or not the local authority is meeting any of these needs; and they are experiencing, or at risk of abuse and neglect. As a result of these care and support needs they are unable to protect themselves from the risk of, or experience of, abuse and neglect.

Types of Abuse and Neglect:

There are different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and different circumstances in which they may take place. The Care Act 2014 identifies the following as an illustrative guide and is not intended to be exhaustive list as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

Physical - hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions

Sexual - including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting

Neglect - including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health or social care, withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition or heating

Emotional or psychological - including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks

Financial or material - including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Organisational - including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation

Discriminator - discrimination is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.

Domestic Abuse and coercive control - including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. It can occur between any family members.

Modern Slavery - encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive, and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment

Self-neglect - this covers a wide range of behaviour; neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Not included in the Care Act 2014 but also relevant:

Cyber Bullying – cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages, or uses online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

Forced Marriage – forced marriage is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. The forced marriage of adults with learning disabilities occurs when the adult does not have the capacity to consent to the marriage.

Mate Crime – a ‘mate crime’ as defined by the Safety Net Project as ‘when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.’ Mate Crime is carried out by someone the adult knows and often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Case Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were murdered or seriously harmed by people who purported to be their friend.

Radicalisation – the aim of radicalisation is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

Signs and indicators of abuse and neglect

Abuse can take place in any context and by all manner of perpetrator. Abuse may be inflicted by anyone in the club who an athlete comes into contact with. Or club members, workers, volunteers or coaches may suspect that an athlete is being abused or neglected outside of the club setting. There are many signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or neglected, these include but are not limited to:

- Unexplained bruises or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present.
- Person has belongings or money going missing.
- Person is not attending / no longer enjoying their sessions. you may notice that a participant in a team has been missing from practice sessions and is not responding to reminders from team members or coaches.
- Someone losing or gaining weight / an unkempt appearance. this could be a player whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable sports kit and deterioration in hygiene.
- A change in the behaviour or confidence of a person. For example, a participant may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile.
- They may self-harm.
- They may have a fear of a particular group or individual.
- They may tell you / another person they are being abused – i.e. a disclosure.
- Harassing of a club member because they are or are perceived to have protected characteristics.

- Not meeting the needs of the participant. E.g. this could be training without a necessary break.
- A coach intentionally striking an athlete.
- This could be a fellow athlete who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to a learning disabled adult they are training alongside.
- This could be an athlete threatening another athlete with physical harm and persistently blaming them for poor performance.

Rights & Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball Club committee:

- To ensure volunteers are aware of the need to look out for, and protect adults at risk
- To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected
- To support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to statutory services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability
- To check relevant volunteers that work with Adults at Risk through the Disclosure and Barring Service

Responsibilities of Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball Club coaches:

- To be familiar with the Adults at Risk policy.
- To take appropriate action in line with the policy of Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball Club
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

Support for those who report abuse

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, whether they are coaches, members or the general public should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk

The Adult At Risk has the right:

- To be made aware of this policy
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- To be involved in any process as appropriate
- To receive information about the outcome

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

All Safeguarding Concerns Must be Reported to the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer

Bridget Owen
Safeguarding and Welfare Officer

Date: 01/07/2022

Review Date: July 2023