

## British Rapid Play Chess Safeguarding Policy May 2016

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The British Rapid Play Chess Event is held annually in Leeds. The event involves children and young people who take part in a chess competition over 2 days alongside the adult chess competition.

The children and young people participating in the competition are supervised whilst playing chess by Adult Arbiters. When the children and young people are not taking part in the competition they are supervised by their parents/carers.

During the competition the children/young people are observed by their parents/carers in an adjoining room. In between the rounds the children/young people can either receive refreshments from their parents or buy them at the venue.

The organisers of the British Rapid Play Chess Event are committed to ensuring a safe environment for the children and young people who take part in the Event. The organisers believe it is unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind.

### 2. A NAMED PERSON(S) FOR SAFEGUARDING

Name of Safeguarding Lead: Dave Welch (Chief Arbiter of ECF and the event)

Name of Deputy Safeguarding lead: Peter Purland

Telephone number: [dvdwlch@googlemail.com](mailto:dvdwlch@googlemail.com) ...[petepurland@btopenworld.com](mailto:petepurland@btopenworld.com)

Mobile Number: contact via email

Emergency Contact No: contact 01132662330

Telephone number of Children's Social Work Service (including out of hours number):

During Office hours - 0113 222 4403

Social Care- Emergency Duty team - 0113 240 9536  
**(out of hours)**

### 3. RECOGNISING THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE

**PHYSICAL ABUSE:** May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be

caused when a parent/carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** Is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, (including cyber- bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**SEXUAL ABUSE:** Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non- penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**NEGLECT:** Is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Possible signs of abuse include:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries or the explanation of the cause of the injury is does not seem right.
- The child discloses abuse, or describes what appears to be an abusive act.
- Someone else (child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child.
- Unexplained change in behaviour such as withdrawal or sudden outbursts of temper.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour.
- Distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Difficulty in making friends.
- Eating disorders, depression, self harm or suicide attempts.

#### 4. BECOMING AWARE OF A SAFEGUARDING ISSUE

If any of the following occur then an investigation will be made:-

- a third party or anonymous allegation is received;
- a child or young person's appearance, behaviour, play, drawing or statements cause suspicion of abuse and/or neglect;
- a child or young person reports an incident(s) of alleged abuse which occurred some time ago;
- a written report is made regarding the serious misconduct of an adult towards a child or young person

#### 5. WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD

##### Stage 1

- Initially talk to a child/young person about what you are observing. It is okay to ask questions, *for example: "I've noticed that you don't appear yourself today, is everything okay? But never use leading questions*
- Listen carefully to what the young person has to say and take it seriously. Act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying.
- It is not the responsibility of groups to investigate incidences of suspected child abuse but to gather information and refer only.
- Always explain to children and young people that any information they have given will have to be shared with others, if this indicates they and or other children are at risk of harm;
- Notify the organisation's Named Person for safeguarding (above)
- Record what was said as soon as possible after any disclosure; the person who receives the allegation or has the concern, should complete a pro-forma and ensure it is signed and dated. The contents of the pro-forma should include:
  - Date and time of notification
  - Young person's name
  - What was said
  - Actions to be taken (both internal and external actions - based on the issues raised in the allegation. Eg; Notify Manager/ Duty and Advice/ LADO)
  - Respect confidentiality and file documents securely;

##### Stage 2

- The Named person(s) should take immediate action if there is a suspicion that a child has been abused or likely to be abused. In this situation the Named Person should contact the police and/or the Duty and Advice Team. If a referral is made direct to the Duty and Advice team this should be followed up in writing within 24 hrs.

NB Parents / carers will need to be informed about any referral to Children & Young people's Social Care unless to do so would place the child at an increased risk of harm.

## 8. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RESPONSIBLE ADULTS

Any allegations made against any of the organisers should be discussed with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

If the allegation is about a lead person in the organisation then the matter should again be discussed with the LADO.

The organiser must ensure that that the child is safe and away from the person against whom the allegation is made.

Regardless of whether a police and/or Children Social Work Service investigation follows, an internal investigation should take place and consideration is given to the operation of disciplinary procedures. This may involve an immediate suspension and/or ultimate dismissal dependant on the nature of the incident.

The contact details of the LADO can be found on the LSCB website under: **Managing Allegations**.

## 9. RECORDING AND MANAGING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

All confidential information will be stored securely and computer records will be password protected.

We recognised that all children and young people have the right to confidentiality unless we consider they could be at risk of abuse and or harm.

An incident form is attached to this policy for recording concerns/allegations of abuse, harm and neglect.

## 10. DISTRIBUTING/ REVIEWING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The British Rapid Play Chess Event Safeguarding Policy will be published on our website and all the organisers have been made aware of the Policy.

The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually.

## **11. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

This policy has been approved by the British Rapid Play Chess Management Committee.