

Safeguarding Policy (Adults and Children)

Version	1.0
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Review Date	

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This document describes how Stour Valley Canoe Club (SVCC) will protect those at risk from abuse, neglect, or exploitation, abiding by the principles of the Human Rights Act, safeguarding legislation including the Children Act and the Care Act.

2. Scope

- 2.1. SVCC's Safeguarding Policy applies to the protection of three cohorts of people at risk of harm:
- All children and young people under the age of 18 in accordance with the Children Act.
 - Adults identified as at risk of harm by the Care Act.
 - Adult victims of exploitation even if they are not identified as at risk of harm by the Care Act (exploitation encompasses any form of control or coercion and includes domestic abuse, modern slavery, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, gang crime, 'mate' crime, and radicalisation).
- 2.2. The Children Act sets out the duties of agencies, to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The Act defines a child as being anyone under the age of 18. Working Together to Safeguard Children (known colloquially as 'Working Together') is statutory guidance which outlines how organisations must co-operate to achieve the aims of the Children Act. All forms of abuse, neglect, and all types of exploitation of children are covered by the safeguarding arrangements under the Children Act.
- 2.3. The Care Act sets out the duties of agencies to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support and promote their welfare. Adults might have needs for care and support due to a range of factors, for example, age or disability. All forms of abuse, neglect, and all types of exploitation of adults with needs for care and support are covered by safeguarding arrangements under the Care Act. The Care Act does not cover safeguarding of all adults, just those adults who have needs for care and support.
- 2.4. Adults aged 18 and above who do not have inherent needs for care and support can become vulnerable to exploitation through their environment and/or situation. Types of exploitation which can develop through control and coercion include domestic abuse, gang crime, cuckooing, 'mate' crime, sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, and radicalisation. There is a range of legislation which applies to these circumstances of exploitation. Even if an adult does not have an inherent need for care and support, their circumstances might make them vulnerable to exploitation and they might need safeguarding.

3. Other Documents That Must be Read Alongside This Policy

3.1. The SVCC Safeguarding Policy must be read alongside the following documents:

- Paddle UK Safeguarding Children Policy.
- Paddle UK Safeguarding Adults Policy.
- Paddle UK Safeguarding Training Matrix.
- Paddle UK Safeguarding Whistleblowing Policy
- Paddle UK Anti Bullying Policy
- Paddle UK Disclosure Policy
- Paddle UK Safeguarding Procedure
- Paddle UK Safer Recruitment of Volunteers Policy
- SVCC Disciplinary Policy
- SVCC Dignity Policy

4. **Duties, Responsibilities and Reporting**

4.1. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. No matter what role you play in SVCC, be it committee, leader, coach or member, you must place the needs of those at risk of harm from abuse as paramount in the tasks you perform on behalf of the SVCC.

4.2. Specific Responsibilities are outlined in the table below:

4.3. Table 1- Safeguarding Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Chair Person	• Ultimate responsibility for ensuring SVCC complies with legislation and guidance pertaining to the safeguarding of those at risk of harm from abuse. • Ensure SVCC engages with external safeguarding stakeholders as required.
Welfare Officers	• Lead the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements of SVCC. • Champion the rights of those at risk of harm from abuse and lead an effective organisational safeguarding strategy • Be the point of contact for DBS checks with Paddle UK and lead DBS checks within SVCC. • Produce and review safeguarding principles and procedures. • Provide safeguarding advice where required. • Lead/ be point of contact for any external safeguarding enquiry.
Committee Members	• Ensure that SVCC adopt appropriate safeguarding processes across all aspects of the organisation.
Coaches & Leaders	• Ensure that safeguarding principles are followed at all times. • Report all potential safeguarding concerns. • Not to offer 1:1 coaching to young people under 18 or those at risk outside of the club

4.4. All young people under the age of 18 years of age who are unaccompanied by their parent or care giver must have a Parental Consent Form each time.

4.5. *Reporting*

4.5.1. It is the responsibility of any member to report safeguarding concerns.

4.5.2. All safeguarding concerns and suggestions to improve safeguarding practices must be reported to the Welfare Officer(s). If the concerns are regarding the Welfare Officer(s) then concerns should be raised to the other Welfare Officer or Chair Person.

4.5.3. All safeguarding concerns must be reported through the online portals on Paddle UK website.

- Concerned about themselves
- Concerned about someone else

4.5.4. If there are any immediate safeguarding concerns 999 should be called and the police requested.

5. Monitoring Compliance

5.1. The Training Lead and Welfare Officer(s) are responsible for ensuring that all committee members, coaches and leaders are appropriately trained.

5.2. All safeguarding training will be logged on Paddle UK Clubhouse.

5.3. All safeguarding procedures and principles will be audited on a yearly basis as a minimum.

6. Training

6.1. All members of SVCC will have the appropriate safeguarding training as outlined by Paddle UK Safeguarding training requirements found here.

6.2. Leaders and Coaches will not be able to operate for SVCC without the appropriate level of Safeguarding Training.

6.3. SVCC will ensure that at least one Welfare Officer is Level 3 trained.

7. Chaperones

7.1. SVCC actively encourages the use of chaperones where required who have received the level of safeguarding training as per section 6.

7.2. Where coaches or leaders are working purely with young people under 18 or vulnerable adults a chaperone or assistant coach/ leader must be used.

8. Engaging with External Agencies

- 8.1. SVCC will engage with all statutory processes and legal investigations relating to safeguarding. Co-ordination will be through the Welfare Officer(s). All members of SVCC must be prepared to be involved.