

Berden Sports & Social Club Safeguarding and Vulnerable Persons Policy Statement

Berden Sports & Social Club organises events and activities for members and guests. All events require that children and vulnerable adults are accompanied by responsible adults. Most events and activities take place in the Berden Village Hall which is situated on the edge of Berden, which is run on behalf of Berden Parish Council by a management committee, which includes a voluntary caretaker and a lettings secretary. There are no permanent staff at the Village Hall. The Berden Village Hall has its own Safeguarding Policy which is an umbrella policy for the Berden Sports & Social Club and which can be read in conjunction with this Policy.

All Sports & Social Club Committee members and volunteers have a duty to safeguard vulnerable members and guests who attend Social Club events and activities. (Vulnerable members and guests could include: children, young people, adults with learning difficulties or physical disability, frail, elderly people and carers).

They should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person. This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Principles

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children will not be permitted or tolerated.

Policy Statement

1. No member of the Sports & Social Club, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have completed the Child Protection or Vulnerable Adults Protection training.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a vulnerable adult or child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
3. All Sports & Social Club volunteers need to be aware of this policy concerning child protection and vulnerable adults.
4. There will be a nominated and named Vulnerable Members and Guests representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported. This person is the Chairman of the Berden Sports & Social Club Committee as elected at the AGM in January each year.
5. This policy and the procedures therein will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

Reporting Incidents

The nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult representative who is the serving Chairman as elected each year at the AGM will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult lead agency. The representative may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to clear up any misunderstanding or to corroborate and support any suspicions before reporting a concern to the lead agency.

The nominated person should:

- Know who to contact at the local authority
- Know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals
- Know about helplines and other sources of help for children and young people and vulnerable adults

Ensure that there is an environment in which members and guests have the opportunity to raise any child protection or vulnerable adult protection concerns.