Baden-Powell Scouts' Association
Child Protection Policy Statement & Guidelines

The Baden-Powell Scouts' Association is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members, who should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Association.
It is our policy to safeguard the welfare of all children by protecting them from neglect, physical, sexual, and emotional harm.

All registered adult members (over 18 years old) of the Baden-Powell Scouts' Association shall be approved through a system of checks including a DBS certificate - to be updated 5 yearly.

Leaders will be issued with a warrant, Non Uniformed Instructors a certificate of appointment.
All registered adult members (over 18 years old) of the B-PSA must attend a B-PSA Child Protection Training Session bi-annually.

Two registered adult members (over 18 years old) of the B-PSA, one of whom must be warranted, must be in attendance at each Colony, Pack, Troop or Group activity. (With additional adults to comply with correct ratios as described in our qualification and supervision document)

Child Protection guidelines

What is abuse?
Physical Abuse – physical harm or injury deliberately inflicted upon a child or young person.
Neglect - This is a persistent or severe failure to meet the child's basic physical needs to the extent that her/his health and /or development are adversely affected.
Emotional Abuse - May involve consistently failing to show love or affection to a child or young person. It may also include criticising or bullying.
Sexual Abuse - May involve an adult (or older, more powerful person) using a child or young person to meet their own sexual needs.

What would you do if a child/young person tells you about abuse?

- Look at the child directly
- Listen, Listen, Listen
- Let them know if, and why, you are going to tell anyone else.
- Assume the child has been threatened.
- Try to find out what they may be afraid of

What helpful things could you say to the child/young person?

- I believe you
- I am glad that you told me
- It's not your fault
- I care, and I will help
- You are brave and it is ok to tell
- The abuser was wrong

What would you try to avoid saying to the young person?

- Why? How? When? Where? Who? Are you sure?
- Why didn't you say before? I can't believe it!
- Statement such as "this is really serious", "don't tell anyone else", "I'm shocked"
- False promises

What would you say to finish the conversation?

- Tell the them again that you believe them
- Let them know what you are going to do and as far as possible what is going to happen next
- Praise the child for telling and for surviving the abuse
- Always finish on a positive note

Recording and reporting

- Record facts only (as given to you)
- Time date and place of reporting and your details
- Details of the person making disclosure
- Personal details (as told to you) of child allegedly abuse
- Any other information or concern you realise may be in regard to this can be kept alongside this information

Who do you report to?

- A safe person
- GSM, Area Commissioner or Local Authority Child Protection Unit
- If you feel the child is in immediate danger and always where there are allegations of sexual abuse the police must be informed
- Report findings safely and in such a way that will not put the young person in any danger

Social network sites and mobile technology

- Do not befriend young people or engage in 1:1 communications
- When sending information to young people, keep everything open and transparent. Copy in parents and other leaders.

Photos and Video

- Gain consent for images
- Make sure images are appropriate
- Share images safely and only where authorised
- Safely store and/or delete old images

Children and young people :-

- Should be safe
- Should be respected
- Should be treated fairly

Safe Practice:

- Do not spend unnecessary time alone with a young person away from others.
- Do have separate sleeping accommodation for young people and adults.
- Do sensitively discourage young people from visiting you at home.
- Do not engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Never allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Do not allow anyone to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Do not let allegations or concerns go unrecorded.
- Do not do things of a personal nature for youngsters that they can do for themselves
- Be prepared to Whistle Blow! Concerns of inappropriate actions must be.

To protect the young person while in your care:

- Ensure all paperwork is completed.
- Always know where all young people are
- Know who is collecting youngsters after meetings or events.