

Creative Sports Coaching CIC

Child Protection and Safeguarding policy



Creative Sports Coaching CIC safeguarding contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated Safeguarding Leads	James Hatch Scott Wilson Daniel Saunders	07711270986 07397161852 07956883678	James@creativesportscoaching.co.uk
Company Director	James Hatch	07711270986	James@creativesportscoaching.co.uk
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	-	0300 300 8142	lado@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Safeguarding lead	James Hatch	-	safeguarding@creativesportscoaching.co.uk

Scope and definitions

This policy applies from the start of the summer term 2024 and reflects updated advice from local safeguarding partners and Central Bedfordshire Council (known as CBC in this policy)

This policy is subject to change in response to any new or updated guidance the government may publish. The policy will be kept under constant review.

Vulnerable children

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

Have a social worker, including children:

- With a child protection plan
- Assessed as being in need
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Looked after by the local authority

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will be responsible for identifying any vulnerable child or children that participates in Creative Sports Coaching programmes and report to the company director or CBC LADO

Core safeguarding principles

We will follow the statutory safeguarding guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2020\)](#).

We will be operating in response to any updated or changes to public health and running projects to as near to normal as possible. A number of important safeguarding principles will continue to remain the same:

- The best interests of children must come first.
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately.
- A DSL should be always available.
- It is essential that unsuitable people do not enter the premises or gain access to children.
- Children should continue to be protected.

Reporting concerns

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in this child protection and safeguarding policy. Staff must report any concern immediately and without delay to the DSL or company director.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children, they should continue to follow this policy and report any concern to the DSL or company director.

DSL arrangements

Wherever possible, a trained DSL will be on site every day. If our DSL can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely via phone or video link. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Key safeguarding contacts' section at the start of this policy.

Working with other agencies

We will continue to work with children's organisations, the local authority and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners, to help keep children safe.

We will continue to update this policy where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- Safeguarding partners
- The local authority, about vulnerable children, the local authority's designated officer (LADO) and children's social care and children in need.

Attendance monitoring

All children will have recorded attendance from ourselves and/or organisation/school we have partnered with.

Where any child we expect to attend a Creative Sports Coaching programme unexpectedly doesn't attend, or stops attending without notification we will:

- Follow up on their absence with the parents or carers, if we feel the child/children are at risk.
- Notify their social worker, if they have one.

We will make arrangements with parents and carers to make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact details and additional contact details where possible.

Peer-on-peer abuse

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately about children attending any Creative Sports Coaching programme or those at home.

Concerns about a member of staff

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately, whether those concerns are about staff, teachers or external workers.

We will continue to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. We will also continue to refer potential cases of misconduct to the Bedfordshire FA and Local Authority. We will do this by contacting them directly via the telephone or via email.

Safeguarding all children

We will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on these concerns immediately in line with the procedures set out above. Staff and volunteers are aware of the potential factors which puts all children at greater risk.

The DSL will do all they reasonably can to find out from parents and carers whether there have been any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before children return. The DSL will be given time to support staff and children regarding new concerns and referrals as children return to a programme. Staff and volunteers will be alert to any new safeguarding concerns as they see children in person.

Staff will speak directly to family at home to help identify any concerns. They will use company phones and devices to make calls.

Staff will look out for signs such as:

- No contact from children or families.
- Seeming more withdrawn during any check-ins or video calls.

Online safety

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out above. We will make sure children know how to report any concerns and signpost them to other sources of support available.

We will make sure parents and carers:

- Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online.
- Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online.

Mental health

Staff and volunteers will be aware of the possible effects that can be had on children's mental health. They will look out for behavioural signs, including pupils being fearful, withdrawn, aggressive, oppositional or excessively clingy, to help identify where support may be needed.

We will also signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health.

Staff and volunteers will be alert to mental health concerns in children who are present, and act on these immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out above.

Safeguarding training and induction

All staff have received safeguarding training.

The company director will communicate with staff any new arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

Where new staff are recruited, or new volunteers enter the organisation, they receive a safeguarding induction in line with the expectations.

Safer recruitment, volunteers and movement of staff

It remains essential that people who are unsuitable to work with children are not allowed to enter the workforce or gain access to children.

When recruiting new staff, we will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures.

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has made changes to its [guidance on standard and enhanced DBS ID checking](#) to minimise the need for face-to-face contact.

We will continue to do our internal checks and risk assessments on new volunteers.

Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not been checked be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regular regulated activity.

We will continue to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), on any adult who has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to ensure they do not have access to children or young people.

Whilst acknowledging the challenge of the current environment, it is essential from a safeguarding perspective that, on any given day, we know which staff or volunteers will be at our sessions and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them. As such, we will keep a record of which staff and volunteers are on site each day and will continue to keep our central record up to date.

Domestic Abuse

Where a child is known to be experiencing domestic abuse at home or a disclosure is made, it is important that children and their parents are asked directly about whether any further incidents have taken place and how safe they are feeling at home.

Where there is an escalation of abuse or any incidents of physical assault, a referral will be made to the Bedfordshire FA and /or CBC LADO A risk assessment will be completed with the victim to assess the level of risk.

It is important that families experiencing domestic abuse are signposted to appropriate support services. These include, but are not limited to the following:

The Hestia Bright Sky app which contains information about support services for victims of domestic abuse that can be 'hidden' under a weather app on their mobile phone.

Women's Aid who are currently offering an instant messaging service for those experiencing domestic abuse at home <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

The FORTIS project (part of SORTED) that offers virtual support online to young people who have experience of domestic abuse or unhealthy relationships 01582 674442
<https://www.sortedbedfordshire.org.uk/>

The Hideout is an online space to help children and young people understand domestic abuse and how to take action <http://thehideout.org.uk/young-people/home/>

Respect which offers information, advice and support to perpetrators of abuse. Call 0808 800 5000, email help@nspcc.org.uk or complete the [online form](#). They also have a [webchat service](#) on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will constantly be reviewed as guidance from partners, the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 4 weeks. At every review it will be approved by the Company Director

Signed *J. Hatch*
Company Director

Date: ...30/08/2024.....