

Child Protection Policy and Procedures

ASCR 9 2012

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CHAPTER ONE: CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

It is SSC policy to safeguard its young people from harm, physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect by:

- Making the health & welfare of young people our first priority;
- Taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well being of young people;
- Respecting the rights, wishes and feeling of the young people with whom it is working;
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect young people from harm;
- Promoting the welfare and protection of young people.

It is the primary responsibility of all volunteers of the SCC to safeguard the welfare of cadets regardless of gender, religion, race, ability, ability, sexuality and social background by protecting them from any form of physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect.

All cadets have the right to protection from all forms of abuse and harm when engaged in Sea Cadet activities and when in contact with members of the SCC.

All volunteers of the SCC have a duty of care, which makes them responsible both for safeguarding cadets from harm and for responding swiftly and appropriately when suspicions or allegations of inappropriate behaviour arise.

The SCC aims to ensure that all cadets are kept safe from harm while they are in our care by:

- Providing parents and cadets with information about what we do and what they can expect from us.
- Making sure that all officers, instructors and unit assistants are carefully selected and given training appropriate to their roles.
- Providing a means for cadets and parents to report their concerns if there is anything they are not happy about.
- Establishing the correct ratios of volunteers to cadets for best practice.
- Ensuring that only those volunteers who are properly appointed as officers, instructors or unit assistants have unsupervised access to cadets.
- Developing a culture of thinking safely, and acting safely.

CHAPTER TWO: PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

Responsibilities of all SCC volunteers

Safeguarding the welfare of children and protecting them from harm is every volunteer's responsibility. Most child abuse can be prevented. Children will and should see volunteers as people they can trust and from whom they can seek help.

You must do something if:

- A child tells you, or shows signs that, he or she is being abused in any way
- You are concerned about the welfare or safety of any child
- You are concerned about unsafe practice
- You receive an allegation of abuse about yourself or any other person

Volunteer duty to speak out (often described as 'whistleblowing')

Any form of child care concern is an exception to the normal SCC requirement on other issues to follow the routine chain of command. Every volunteer is required to report any suspicions of abuse or harm concerning a child or young person whether it is inside or outside the Corps and no one should feel, or be made to feel uncomfortable, bullied or intimidated by doing so or being coerced into not reporting them.

Cadet freedom to speak out

Cadets should feel comfortable and free to report, at any time, any child care concerns within or outside the SCC to any member of volunteer or employee, and all COs should create a culture within the unit to ensure that cadets are aware they can speak about concerns and feel comfortable in doing so – they must have confidence they are being listened to.

In addition to support within the unit, contact details for a Child Line 0800 1111 must be prominently displayed in the unit or any other location regularly used by cadets.

Support and Advice

Volunteers and parents can seek advice on child protection matters from area business managers, designated workers or MSSC HQ (contact details for ABM's and HQ can be found at www.sccheadquarters.com). If you are unsure of any aspect of the Child Protection Policy please seek advice from one of the above.

The safeguarding manager at MSSC HQ is the ultimate source of advice relating to all child protection matters. The safeguarding manager may, in exceptional circumstances, issue mandatory advice in respect of the management of child protection incidents.

MSSC appoints specially trained designated workers to act as champions of our child protection policy and to offer support and guidance to members. Contact your area office for details.

CHAPTER THREE: PROCEDURES & GOOD PRACTICE

MSSC HQ will from time to time issue instructions to all members for use when responding to allegations of child abuse or concerns about the welfare of young people. The process for dealing with allegations is detailed in the Child Protection Pocket Guide and Commanding Officers Procedures.

Volunteers and employees must take any allegation or concern about the welfare of cadets seriously and act immediately in accordance with the Child Protection Pocket Guide.

Volunteers must follow the Code of Conduct ACSR 12 and the guidance laid down in the Child Protection Pocket guide.

Commanding officers must report allegations of child abuse or concerns about the welfare of young people are reported in accordance with Commanding Officers Procedures.

Commanding officers and UMC chairs must ensure that any non-compliance with the SSC's child protection arrangements are dealt with appropriately and where necessary reported to area business managers.

Use this space for keeping your own contacts/telephone numbers:

	Name	Telephone number
Area Business Manager:		
CO:		
MSSC HQ	Safeguarding Manager	0207 654 7000 (24 hours)
District Officer:		