

Safeguarding Adults in Clubs and Groups: Frequently Asked Questions

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acting against abuse

Ann Craft Trust

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Safeguarding adults is everybody's business. Groups and clubs play a crucial role in keeping adults safe. They need to look out for the welfare of all adults and be informed enough to ensure that any safeguarding concerns about adults are properly acted upon.

Here are some FAQs about getting started with safeguarding adults in sport and activity groups or clubs.

What is safeguarding adults?

Safeguarding adults means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Watch these short introductory films about safeguarding adults to learn some basics <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/what-is-safeguarding/> and <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/a-video-introduction-to-safeguarding-adults-in-sport/>

Where is the best place to start?

Do a quick audit of your group or club. This checklist will help you to draw up an action plan and get links to free resources <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/safeguarding-checklist-prevention/>

What do we need to have in place?

The audit will have helped you to come up with a plan. This page also takes you through the steps your group or club should take

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding/steps-to-a-safer-organisation>

Isn't safeguarding adults the same as safeguarding children?

All children and adults have the right to be safe. The way that we deal with concerns about adults is different to how we deal with concerns about children.

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding/what-is-safeguarding/what-is-safeguarding#section-2>

What roles do staff and volunteers undertake with safeguarding adults?

Everyone has a duty to recognise and report concerns. Every club or group should have someone who takes responsibility for coordinating what to do with concerns about adults. They are often called a welfare officer or a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

What might be a safeguarding adults concern?

Concerns could be about things that happen in the club or group, or you may hear about things that have happened outside the club or group. You may be concerned about someone's physical or mental wellbeing, you may see signs of abuse or notice that they look distressed or unhappy. There are many indicators that may alert you to raise a concern.

How should we respond to a concern?

Develop a policy and procedure that all staff and volunteers follow if they have a concern about an adult. Here's some tips on how to do it www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/tips-safeguarding-adults-policy-procedure Sample templates are here: www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/safeguarding-adults-policy-procedures-templates

What training should we do?

All staff and volunteers should watch a safeguarding adults film so you have a basic understanding of safeguarding adults and know that safeguarding adults is everybody's business.

People who run sessions can do training through your local Safeguarding Adults Board. To find yours, just look it up on your council website. They can also do online training <https://www.ukcoaching.org/courses/learn-at-home/safeguarding-adults>

The Welfare Officer/ DSO can access training from the Local Safeguarding Adults Board. ACT also runs training sessions.

Boards or committees should also have training on their responsibilities. The NCVO runs sessions and has lots of resources about how to run a group well www.knowhow.ncvo.org.uk

How do we keep learning about safeguarding adults?

Keep in touch with your Local Safeguarding Adults Board.

Keep in touch with ACT, the safeguarding charity that is funded to help sport and activity organisations. Sign up to the monthly Sport Update and quarterly ACT bulletin <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/subscribe>

And follow ACT on Twitter @AnnCraftTrust and join in the #ActSafeguardingHour 12-1pm every Wednesday.