



## Chester Sports Association for people with a Disability CSAD

### Specific Safeguarding Policy

CSAD's members are adults and sometimes children with various forms of learning (and physical) Disability. All will come under the category of Vulnerable.

(from dictionary definition) Vulnerable: susceptible to physical or emotional attack or harm. Risk of abuse or neglect, in need of special care, helpless, defenceless, powerless, weak, susceptible.

Some key points from the principals of adult safeguarding are, Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality (the least intrusive response to the risk presented), Protection, Partnership, Accountability.

The care act, Safeguarding vulnerable adults act 2006 and the child protection act 2004 (and subsequent updates/ additions) are recognised by CSAD as it's framework, referral to and guidance for Safeguarding implementation.

CSAD has a Specified Safeguarding person who has attended various training and relevant courses on a yearly basis. This training is updated as often as possible. It is the responsibility of all at the club to pass on concerns to a (responsible) committee member, which will be addressed by the safeguarding officer. Training courses can be easily arranged. Courses meet with the required acts for safeguarding. The safeguarding officer will, when asked, share information of relevant sources and they can easily be found on internet searches of relevant web sites.

At the club there is Members, Paid support workers (from agencies) accompanying some of the members, parents and family dropping off and picking up, there are known, visitors to the club and volunteers (half of whom are parents of members).

There is also a caretaker at the school and general public who use the school facilities (Saturdays 12-3) and various staff and general public at Northgate Arena Wednesday 6-7pm)

Details of members (including things such as photo permission) is kept securely and is available if necessary (eg medication/ conditions/ emergency contact should there be an accident or other problem).

Details of all others at the club, on the day, are recorded and things such as DBS information are kept securely on record.

Volunteers do not assist with member's personal care, any keeping and administering of medication or members monies, unless a volunteer is a recognised parent/ carer of that member.

At the Arena there are lots of people about which helps to keep volunteers and support workers in open view when interacting with members in the activities and similarly at the school and volunteers and support workers check on members to vastly reduce any risk of problems from anyone in the general public or the staff there.

Club monies (as well as kind sponsorship, members pay annual and weekly subs) are reviewed by independent accountants.

It is NEVER to be assumed that abuse could not be taking place at the club, against or by ANYONE there (members, volunteers, parents, carers, support workers, visitors and any others).

Diligence is paramount. Parents and carers generally have more awareness of the importance of regular assessment (look out for) of potential problems or danger. It is part of what regularly happens within CSAD and MUST be continued and any concerns reported. The occurrence and action taken will be recorded.

Physical abuse (fighting) is rare but has always been addressed, recorded and the relevant persons/ agencies are informed and included.

Emotional abuse (being left out, ignored, ridiculed, bullying by shouting at or using insulting/ derogatory words or actions) is NOT to be tolerated.

In some activities competitiveness can at times produce disagreements and this is addressed with a chat and 'shake of hands' to diffuse and resolve the one off situation. Regular occurrences between the same people IS and MUST be taken to a responsible club person and the safeguarding officer informed, to be addressed and relevant persons (support, carers, parents)/ agencies informed. This could include social services, Care Quality Commission, NSPCC, Disability rights, organisations such as scope and even the police if required.

CSAD and all who attend the club, in the vast majority, have connections with other relevant organisations/ clubs connected to disability including educational establishments. This makes Safeguarding work much better, as well as easily drawing the attention, of all, to new people.

It **MUST NOT**, however, be assumed that there is not abuse happening to members outside of the club. Spotting notable changes in people is important. CSAD have always and **MUST** continue to check on members well being. Appearance can raise concern and spot possible signs of neglect, such as dishevelled clothes, poor hygiene.

Members becoming withdrawn may well be a sign of some kind of abuse taking place outside of the club. Many members will probably have difficulty with communication. CSAD members can often have more than one health condition and a change in behaviour, skin colour, weight loss may be part of the condition or change in medication. Mentioning to a support worker/ parent/ carer can be well appreciated as seeing the member on a daily basis can sometimes make it harder to notice, negative, changes. Incorrect use of medication is a form of abuse.

One off and especially Regular bruising on a member (or anyone) is a **MUST** for reporting.

It is **BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY** and any concern about members (or anyone at club) should be passed on to the safeguarding person or other responsible person at the club (who will pass on to safeguarding officer). This will usually be handled by passing on the concern to parent/ carer/ support workers. Persistence of the problem/ concern would be taken further if it seems required.

Members may choose to stop coming to or have a break from the club for a while. It is very difficult to ascertain whether it is their, own, 'informed' choice or if the decision has been made for them, against their wishes. Any such concerns should be reported.

Physical contact is generally avoided as much as possible to respect everyone. Some members are more tactile than others and will hug others if they score a goal/ basket (like it can be seen on the TV). It is the responsibility of all at the club to monitor and report where such actions seemed to be aimed at a particular

person, for what seems anything different than just exuberant celebration with 'a team member'.

If the relevant CSAD persons do not seem to have addressed a Safeguarding concern, well enough, putting it in writing would be good, as a reminder but if that reminder is not then addressed, or not a satisfactory response, organisations mentioned above are, quite, easily accessible and should be contacted.

This and other Policies (which include aspects of CSAD safeguarding) to be reviewed by committee, December 2018