

The Veteran Horse, Pony and Rider Club Safeguarding policy

The VHPRC Riding Club fully accepts its legal and moral obligation under The Children's Act (1989) and (2004), to provide a duty of care to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief, creed, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (the Childrens Act 1989).

The VHPRC Riding Club fully adopts the BHS Safeguarding Policy (Children and Young People)

Aims

The aims of the VHPRC Riding Club Safeguarding Policy are:

- To ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation to provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst at the VHPRC Riding Club, allowing them to participate in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play.
- To take all reasonable, practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- To ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern. All concerns or allegations of poor practise or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility to report it.
- To ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- To maintain high standards of behaviours and good practise through compliance with BRC Official Rules and the BEF Codes of Conduct produced for instructors, coaches, parents/guardians, junior members, BRC Officials and volunteers. The policy and procedures are mandatory for everyone involved with The VHPRC Riding Club. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the The VHPRC Riding Club.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, BHS, BRC and the BEF
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

Centre Safeguarding Officer

The VHPRC Riding Club will appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO)

The role of the CSO is:

- work with others in the centre or club to ensure a positive child-centred environment
- ensure that their club or centre is aware of The British Horse Society's safeguarding policies, procedures and guidelines
- ensure parents/children are aware of the policy and procedures
- receive queries and offer support regarding safeguarding concerns
- undertake training as necessary
- promote training to club and centre support staff, members and volunteers
- assist the club or centre to ensure that codes of conduct are in place for club staff, volunteers, coaches, young people and parents
- ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a "need to know" basis
- respond to any allegations or complaints made from within your club/centre
- communicate with centre or club management and The BHS Safeguarding team regarding concerns
- maintain contact details for local children's social care and the police

It is not the role of the CSO to be a Child Protection expert or to determine whether or not a serious incident has taken place, rather to record the details and seek guidance if necessary.

Communication

The VHPRC Riding Club will make available its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to all officials, volunteers, junior members and their parents/guardians and it will appear in full on the The VHPRC Riding Club website. (www.vhprc.co.uk)

The VHPRC Riding Club will circulate to all new members and their parents/guardians if they are under 18, the name and number of the Club Safeguarding Officer.

All individuals involved with The VHPRC Riding Club, no matter what role they participate in, must adhere to the Safeguarding Code of Conduct.

All individuals involved with The VHPRC Riding Club must all sign to agree to uphold the Safeguarding Code of Conduct.

Training

Instructors/coaches, officials and volunteers working with children may like to undertake the BEF approved safeguarding training (or recognised equivalent) course within the last 3 years. Ideally refresher training should be completed every three years via either the BEF approved online training portal or a further face to face course.

As a minimum the CSO must attend the required Safeguarding Training Course.

Criminal Record checks

Instructors/coaches, officials and volunteers working with children at The VHPRC Riding Club may be required to hold a current certificate through the Disclosure and Barring Service, Disclosure Scotland or Access NI as appropriate. Certificates must be renewed every three years. Please see the guidance documents below.

Further information and links

The VHPRC Riding Club Safeguarding Officer details:

Mrs Sue Fews

Phone: 07790 951515

Email: woodfield.stables@outlook.com

BHS Safeguarding Team
02476 840746
safeguarding@bhs.org.uk
Confidential email: cpleadofficer@bhs.org.uk
Childline 0800 1111
NSPCC 0808 800 5000