

# **Child Protection / Safeguarding Boscastle & Crackington Gig Club**

## **Guidelines and information for Coxes of Junior Crews issued in accordance with the policies of British Rowing**

### **Introduction**

Abuse can and does occur within the family setting, as well as in other organisations and settings. Abuse can be the action or inaction of e.g. a Cox, coach, club member, family member or other child/ young person.

To enable the club to act appropriately in such situations it has an appointed Welfare Officer who has an increased awareness of Child Protection and of the procedures that must be followed. It is NOT the responsibility of the Welfare Officer to investigate allegations of abuse, but it is their responsibility to seek advice and guidance including Police / Social Services in more serious situations. (Social Services are known as Children & Young People Services, but will be referred to as Social Services throughout this document.)

This applies to abuse that may occur within a rowing context, but also to abuse that may be occurring elsewhere. Members of the club may become aware of abuse happening by witnessing it, recognising signs of abuse as listed and also by a child/ young person disclosing abuse.

### **Dealing with a disclosure of abuse**

Children/young people who are being abused will almost always tell someone they trust and feel safe with, i.e. coach /Cox or trainer. By disclosing abuse they are placing their trust in you, and want the abuse to stop. It will have taken a great deal of courage for a child to disclose abuse to you and you should respond accordingly.

If any club member should bring concerns about a child's welfare to the attention of the club Welfare Officer it would be appropriate for the Welfare Officer to discuss the concerns with the child's parents. **However**, in some circumstances concerns should not be shared with the parent /carer.

These could include when:

- ⌚ The child could be placed at greater risk
- ⌚ Other children/young people could be placed at risk
- ⌚ Other club members could be placed at risk
- ⌚ Inability to contact parents could cause delay in making a referral
- ⌚ Sexual abuse is suspected

If there is any doubt as to whether to parents should be contacted the Welfare Officer should seek advice from Social Services or NSPCC Helpline.

### **What to do if a disclosure is made:**

#### **DO'S:**

- ⌚ Stay calm
- ⌚ Believe what you are being told
- ⌚ Reassure the child/young person that they are doing the right thing in telling someone
- ⌚ Give them time to say what they want to say
- ⌚ Clarify your understanding of the conversation
- ⌚ Be honest and tell them you cannot keep the conversation a secret
- ⌚ Explain to them what you are going to do now
- ⌚ Make notes as soon as possible (see attached)
- ⌚ Contact club Welfare Officer immediately for advice and guidance or your area Social Services or Police
- ⌚ Ensure maximum confidentiality

#### **DONT'S**

- ⌚ Panic
- ⌚ Appear shocked
- ⌚ Doubt
- ⌚ Promise to keep it a secret
- ⌚ Ask leading questions or ask specific details of the abuse
- ⌚ Make assumptions, always clarify your understanding of the disclosure with the young

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