



# Chet Valley Photography Club

*A friendly photography club*

## **Safeguarding Children Policy**

### **Purpose and aim of the procedures**

The aim of this policy is to detail the responsibilities of Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC) committee members, members, volunteers, parents and young people in keeping children safe. This policy is designed to protect children who use the (CVPC) from harm and enables members/volunteers/parents to know what they must do if they are worried about the welfare of a child either whilst attending the CVPC club or out in the community.

### **What is Abuse and What Should I Look Out For?**

There are four main categories of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual and neglect. Some children may experience more than one of these categories.

**Physical abuse:** Physical abuse is a deliberate attempt to hurt a child. This may include, but is not limited to, hitting, burning, suffocating, poisoning and shaking. Children may have broken bones, bruises or other injuries.

**What to look out for:** *inconsistent or unconvincing explanations of how an injury happened, repeated injuries, bruises than look like they have been caused by a hand or object, burns to backs of hands, feet, legs and genitals or that look like a cigarette burn, bite marks.*

**Sexual abuse:** Encouraging or forcing a child to take part in sexual activity with another child or an adult, engaging in sexual activity in front of a child, showing a child pornography, taking sexually inappropriate pictures of a child or touching a child (clothed or unclothed) sexual manner.

**What to look out for:** *aggressive behaviour, acting out of sexual behaviour or promiscuity, risk taking, poor personal hygiene, fear of a particular adult, UTI infections and extreme change in behaviour.*

**Emotional abuse:** Severe and persistent ill treatment which may include: humiliating and criticizing, using degrading punishments, putting unrealistic expectations upon a child, allowing a child to witness domestic violence, neglecting a child's emotional needs.

**What to look out for:** *very low self esteem, poor relationships with adults and other children, rebellious/aggressive behaviour, withdrawn and isolated, not caring about what happens to them (including impulsive behaviour/risk taking), self harm (cutting, hair pulling, burning).*

**Neglect:** Parent/carer's inability to meet their children's essential basic needs such as food, clothing, health care and emotional support.

**What to look out for:** *poor hygiene, inadequate/unwashed clothing, untreated health problems, missing school and struggling with school work, anxious and withdrawn, difficulty making friends, anti-social behaviour. Child may also be taking on the role of carer in the home.*

## What To Do If You Suspect A Child Is Being Abused

If you are worried about a child in the club and think they may be being abused either at the club or out in the community it is essential that you report your concerns. There is a named Child Protection Committee Member (CPCM) for the CVPC and they will listen to your concerns and liaise with The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within Children's Services or the Police if necessary. If the named CPCM is not in the building you report your concerns to another committee member who will take appropriate action. If your concern is regarding a member of CVPC or you wish to contact Children's Services directly you can call **0344 800 8014**. This number is for concerns that warrant immediate attention.

## How To Respond To Allegations Of Abuse

If you have evidence of abuse against a member or parent it is very important that you share these concerns immediately with the named Child Protection Committee Member (CPCM). If your concerns are about the CPCM then please talk to another club committee member, or contact Children's Services or the Police directly.

If a child tells you they are being abused it is very important that you:

- Listen
- Do not act shocked/upset
- Reassure the child they have done the right thing
- Write down what has been said as soon as possible
- Inform a named Child Protection Committee Member who will then contact Children's Services or the Police directly

## Taking Photos

The CVPC committee will endeavour that all persons under the age of 16 years of age will be protected from the viewing or taking of images that may be considered of a sensitive nature. In the event that images of a sensitive nature are displayed or captured then persons under 16 years of age shall be excluded from such events unless primary consent is gained from a parent or legal guardian.

Parents have given their consent for photos of their child to be taken.

## Safeguarding yourself and others.

It is important that members support each other and that at no time should a member of the CVPC or a volunteer be alone in a room with a child. Please ensure that a parent/guardian or responsible adult accompanies any child under 14 years of age at all times or an additional member of the CVPC knows where you are at all times.

## Confidentiality

Information about each child, including contact details will be kept confidential and **only accessed on a need to know basis**. There are times when a child's details may need to be shared with others and an example of this may be if there is a child protection concern.

Committee members are aware of the importance of confidentiality.