



3rd Hayling Scout Group

Child Protection Policy

Original Document: **January 2001**

Current Version **March 2008**

Note: Changes to this document are made to reflect changes in the policy of the Scout Association as described in its Policy Organisation and Rules.

The 3rd Hayling Scout Group is a registered charity. Registration number 308136

Introduction

The Child Protection Policy of the 3rd Hayling Scout Group, is the Child Protection Policy of the Scout Association in the UK.

Below are the relevant sections from “Policy Organisation and Rules”, that lays down the structure of scouting in the United Kingdom and defines information about its training and management.

This document is a copy from the guidelines issued by the Scout Association in their document “Policy, Organisation and Rules”, available on request from the Group Scout Leader or from the Scout Association Web Site on:-

www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/por/index.htm

This document is updated to reflect changes in the policy as defined by the Scout Association.

The Child Protection Policy

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

The Scout Association is committed to:-

1. Taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of young people.
2. Respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom it is working.
3. Taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse
4. Promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.

Responsibilities within the Child Protection Policy

- a) All adults aged 18 or over within Scouting are responsible for the operation of the Associations Child Protection Policy
- b) It is the responsibility of all adults to ensure that:-
 - Their behaviour is appropriate at all times
 - They observe the rules established for the safety and security of young people
 - They follow the procedures following suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse
 - They recognize the position of trust in which they have been placed

- In every respect the relationships they form with the young people under their care are appropriate

Note: the guidelines “Young People First” set out a code of behaviour which is essential for all adults in Scouting to follow. The guidelines are available from the Scout Information Centre.

- c) Counties must designate one or more Child Protection Co-ordinators

They shall have the responsibility of advising the County Commissioner and the County Executive Committee on the implementation of the Associations Child Protection Policy within the County and shall assist District Commissioners in operating its policy and its procedures.

- d) The District Commissioner or the County Commissioner as appropriate, must be satisfied that all those whom they appoint are “fit and proper” persons to carry out the responsibilities of the appointment.

They must ensure that all applicants demonstrate an understanding of and a commitment to the principles and procedures supporting the Associations Child Protection Policy.

- e) Group Scout Leaders must be satisfied that all those whom they invite to assist them in the work of the Scout Group are “fit and proper” persons to carry out the tasks given to them and are aware of their responsibilities under the Associations Child Protection Policy

- f) In cases where there is an allegation or suspicion of child abuse the District Commissioner or County Commissioner, as appropriate, must immediately take steps to ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause and that no adult is placed in a position which could cause further compromise.

To this end, suspension of Membership may be necessary.

- g) Where urgent issues of Child Protection are involved the Chief Commissioner has the authority to suspend the Membership of any adult.

- h) The suspending authority must ensure that the Records Manager at Headquarters is informed immediately

- i) When District or County Commissioners do not renew, or when they cancel warrants and appointments because the holder has not acted in accordance with the Associations Child Protection Policy, or has breached the code of behaviour, set out in the Young People First guidelines, they must inform the Records Manager at Headquarters in writing of the reasons for the termination of the warrant or appointment.