

The Chorley Photographic Society is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its Members and Visitors. Throughout this policy it should be understood that “Child” also includes “Vulnerable Adult”.

Members and Visitors should, at all times, observe our Child Policy; show respect for, and understanding of, their rights, safety and welfare; and conduct themselves in a way that reflects credit on the club.

Adopted at the CPS Committee Meeting on Wednesday 13th August 2008

BEHAVIOUR STATEMENT

1. Always

- Ensure that all volunteers and members at your club are aware of these guidelines
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Provide an example you wish others to follow.
- Ensure that another adult (ideally of a different gender) is present when you are in the company of young people.
- Respect persons’ right to privacy.
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes and behaviour they do not like.
- Remember someone might misinterpret your actions and your comments no matter how well intentioned.
- Recognise that caution is required particularly in sensitive moments such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement, grief or abuse.
- Be aware of the possible implications of physical contact with young people.
- Contact your local interagency child protection officer whenever in doubt.

2. Never

- permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying)
 - jump to conclusions.
 - allow yourself to be drawn into any inappropriate attention seeking behaviour by young people (e.g. tantrums, crushes)
 - exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
 - show favouritism to any individual.
 - make suggestive remarks or gestures.
 - rely upon your good name to protect you.
 - believe “it could never happen to me,” either when dealing with abuse or being accused of committing abuse. What to do if One to One Contact is unavoidable:
 - Make sure it is for as short time as possible.
 - Ensure you are accessible to others.
 - Tell someone else where you are going, what you are doing and why.
 - Try to move with the child to areas where there are more people.
 - Try to avoid unnecessary physical contact especially if it may be misconstrued by the child or other people.
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Action Statement

If you suspect or are told that a young person is being abused.

- You must always refer – you must never investigate.
- Write down the facts, as you know them.
- Ensure that the young person is given the opportunity to talk to you, or an independent person.
- Listen to the young person without interruption, and do not ask questions about what you may suspect. • Do not approach a suspected abuser yourself.
- Provide support as appropriate.
- Accept at face value what the young person says.
- Do not pass judgement on what is said, but to try to alleviate any fears or guilt which the young person may have.
- Make it clear that you can offer support, and that you **MUST** pass on the information.

If you receive an allegation of child abuse by an adult

- Contact your local interagency child protection officer via one of the Club's designated contacts.
- Record the nature of the allegation in detail.
- Do not try to sort it out yourself.

In case of an emergency please contact: one of the following responsible people:

- Will Stead, President - 07702 784895
- Gordon Jenkins, Treasurer & Past President - 01257 268965

Adopted on 13th August 2008
