

VENUE SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Meads LTC recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children (anyone under 18) and adults at risk (the definition of an 'adult at risk' varies between the UK nations. [The Care Act 2014](#) states that adult safeguarding duties apply to any person aged 18 years or older who:

- Has care and support needs.
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- Is unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs.)

We are committed to ensuring our safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and with LTA standards. We also advocate that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We are committed to prioritising the well-being of children and adults at risk and providing a safe and welcoming environment where they are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children and adults at risk receive effective support and protection.

A copy of our full safeguarding policy is available online here: [\[POLICIES\]](#) and can also be located or requested from our Welfare Officers, Clare Greenwell or Val Rimmer, or our Chair, Hazel Sneath.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Protect children and adults at risk (including children of adults who use our services) from harm
- Provide the necessary information to enable people to meet their safeguarding responsibilities
- Deliver good practice and high safeguarding standards
- Outline our commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk

This policy applies to any person who plays, coaches, officiates, works, volunteers, or otherwise participates (or visits) at our venue.

SUPERVISING CHILDREN

Children under the age of 13 are required to have parental supervision whilst at our venue and not participating in any venue sessions, such as coaching lessons or tennis camps.

RESPONDING TO A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN OR ALLEGATION

Everyone has a responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of children and adults at risk and to take appropriate steps to ensure that safeguarding concerns and allegations are taken seriously and responded to quickly and appropriately, even if the safeguarding concern or allegation may not have occurred recently.

It is advisable to discuss safeguarding concerns or allegations with the adult at risk, or the child's parents in the first instance except where this may place the adult at risk, a child, or someone else, at increased risk.

It is not the responsibility of anyone within the venue to investigate any safeguarding concern or allegation, nor determine whether abuse has taken place. All concerns must be responded to in accordance with the Reporting a Safeguarding Concern Procedure.

Once a safeguarding concern or allegation is reported to our Welfare Officer, it will be passed onto the LTA Safeguarding Team who will triage and manage it through the LTA Safeguarding

Regulations, which form part of the LTA Disciplinary Code available here: <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/governance-and-structure/rules-regulations/>.

RAISING A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

Concerns should be raised to our Welfare Officers via Clare Greenwell: 07917 522282 or Val Rimmer: 07739 690594. If they are unavailable or a safeguarding concern relates to them, the concerns should be referred directly to the LTA via <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/>.

WE RECOGNISE THAT

- the welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount
- working in partnership with children, their parents/carers and adults at risk is essential in promoting their welfare
- all children and adults at risk, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children and adults at risk, including LGBTQ+ people, disabled people or people from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and additional measures and safeguards may be needed to ensure their welfare.

WE WILL SEEK TO KEEP CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK SAFE BY

- promoting and prioritising their safety and well-being
- appointing a Welfare Officer with responsibility for safeguarding in our venue
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate induction and learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and adults at risk
- safely recruiting and selecting staff, coaches and volunteers
- promoting and maintaining a positive safeguarding culture where people feel able to raise a genuine concerns and are confident they will be taken seriously
- 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
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensuring that we have a process to deal with complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in place for other activities, including coaching, competitions, holiday camps, social activities, online activity and social media, transportation and supervision

This policy was last reviewed on 1st March 2024 and will be reviewed every three years (or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

Chairperson Hazel Sneath:

Date: 1st March 2024

Welfare Officer Clare Greenwell:

Date: 1st March 2024

Deputy Welfare Officer Val Rimmer:

Date: 1st March 2024