

# **Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy**

## **Purpose**

The Camera Club offers great opportunities but all children/vulnerable adults have a right to protection and this Camera Club has a role in that. Protection of children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility. The child/vulnerable adult's welfare should always be the first consideration in any situation but it should be remembered that parent(s)/guardian/carer retain responsibility at all times and should be involved as appropriate. [This policy isn't asking people to be parent(s)/guardians/carer]

This policy sets out the principles behind protecting children/vulnerable adults and, in some circumstances, the action you should take.

## **Scope**

Definitions are:

Child – young person under 18

Vulnerable adult – person aged 18 or over and who is in need of community services due to illness or mental/physical disability.

## **Note:**

A child under 16 years must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian. If not prepared to accompany a child, the Club requires the parent/legal guardian to nominate in writing a responsible adult. The parent/legal guardian remains responsible for the child prior to arrival at the Club and once they leave the Club. If a child arrives at the Club unaccompanied, they will not be admitted.

A child age 16 or 17 years may attend the Club provided the Club has the written permission of the parent/legal guardian.

A vulnerable adult may attend the Club with appropriate support.

## **Recognising and reporting abuse**

It is not the responsibility of members of the club to decide if abuse has taken place but if a Member has concerns these should be reported as below:

## **Abuse**

If you think you have spotted the signs of sexual, emotional, physical abuse or neglect <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/signs-symptoms-effects/> , these should be referred to children/vulnerable adult's social care or, if an emergency, the police:

Cambridgeshire child protection team: tel 0345 045 5203 (0345 045 5202 for vulnerable adults)  
8am - 6pm Monday to Friday or out of hours Emergency Duty Team - 01733 234 724.

If you are unsure and would like to talk to someone, call the NSPCC 0808 800 5000.

### **Abuse by a member of the Club**

Sadly some people will actively seek out ways to harm young people and vulnerable adults and may use clubs to approach them with inappropriate suggestions/touching.

Concerns about individuals should be reported to the Cambridgeshire child /adult protection team/ police as above and to the Club President.

In the case of either situation above records should be kept about referrals made and information shared on a need-to-know basis.

### **Good practice**

It is not possible to cover all situations but the below should give broad guidelines:

Parents/carers should be informed about/give permission for

- lifts home or to events
- involvement in events where the taking or viewing of images may be considered suggestive or indecent
- attendance at a studio evening.

Personal care of children/vulnerable adults will remain the responsibility of the parent/carer

Inappropriate situations should be avoided; these may include:

- being alone with children/vulnerable adults
- inappropriate touching beyond helping with camera position;
- allowing children/vulnerable adults to be photographed in inappropriate situations
- allowing children/vulnerable adults to see inappropriate material
- allowing children/vulnerable adults to operate unsuitable equipment
- using inappropriate language within hearshot of a child/vulnerable adult.