



## YORK&DISTRICT RIDING CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICY

York&District Riding Club (Y&DRC) fully accepts its legal and moral obligation under The Children Acts (1989) and (2004), to provide a duty of care to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief, creed, sexual orientation and gender reassignment. A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (the Children Act 1989).

Y&DRC fully adopts the BHS Safeguarding Policy (Children and Young People).

### **AIMS**

The aims of the Y&DRC Safeguarding Policy are:

- To ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation to provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst at Y&DRC activities, allowing them to participate in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play
- To take all reasonable, practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings
- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- To 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. All concerns or allegations of poor practise or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility to report it.
- To ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored

- To maintain high standards of behaviours and good practise through compliance with BEF codes of conduct produced for instructors, coaches, parents/guardians, junior members, club officials and volunteers

The policy and procedures are mandatory for everyone involved with Y&DRC. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from Y&DRC.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, BHS and the BEF
- As a result of any other significant change or event

### **Club Safeguarding Officer**

Y&DRC has appointed Mike Cairns as Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO).

The role of the CSO is to:

- Work with others in the club to ensure a positive child-centred environment
- Ensure that the club is aware of The British Horse Society's safeguarding policies, procedures and guidelines
- Ensure parents/children are aware of the policy and procedures
- Receive queries and offer support regarding safeguarding concerns
- Undertake training as necessary
- Promote training as necessary
- Assist the club to ensure that codes of conduct are in place for club officials, volunteers, coaches, young people and parents
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a "need to know" basis
- Respond to any allegations or complaints made from within the club
- Communicate with club officials and the BHS Safeguarding team regarding concerns
- Maintain contact details for local children's social care and the police

It is not the role of the CSO to be a Child Protection expert or to determine whether or not a serious incident has taken place, rather to record the details and seek guidance if necessary.

Communication:

Y&DRC will make available its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to all club officials, volunteers, coaches, junior members and their parents/guardians and it will appear in full on the Y&DRC website. All individuals involved with Y&DRC, no matter what role they participate in, must adhere to the Safeguarding Code of Conduct (see the Code of Conduct documents available on the Y&DRC website).

### **CONTACTS**

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