

## Small Heath Boxing Club Child Protection Policy statement

Child Welfare Officer: Alex Gatty

Deputy CWO: Craig Savage

*Small Heath Boxing Club (SHBC)* has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in the Club from harm. *SHBC* will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in *SHBC* through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by *SHBC*

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

Policy aims

- The aim of the *SHBC* Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:
- Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of *SHBC*
- Allow all staff /volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

### 1. **Child Neglect identity**

Neglect is normally defined in terms of an omission, where a child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, or medical care. It may also include neglect of a child's basic emotional needs.

Neglect generally becomes apparent in different ways over a period of time rather than at one specific point. For instance, a child who suffers a series of minor injuries is not having his or her needs for supervision and safety met. The threshold of significant harm is reached when the child's needs are neglected to the extent that his or her well being and/or development is severely affected.

### 2. **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is normally to be found in the relationship between an adult and a child rather than in a specific event or pattern of events. It occurs when a child's need for affection, approval, consistency and security are not met. It is rarely manifested in terms of physical symptoms. For children with disabilities it may include over-protection or conversely failure to acknowledge or understand a child's disability.

Examples of emotional abuse include:

- a. Persistent criticism, sarcasm, hostility or blaming;
- b. Where the level of care is conditional on his or her behaviour;
- c. Unresponsiveness, inconsistent or unrealistic expectations of a child;
- d. Premature imposition of responsibility on the child;
- e. Over or under protection of the child;
- f. Failure to provide opportunities for the child's education and development;
- g. Use of unrealistic or over-harsh disciplinary measures;
- h. Exposure to domestic violence.

Children show signs of emotional abuse by their behaviour for example, excessive clinginess to or avoidance of the parent/guardian, their emotional state (low self-esteem, unhappiness), or their development (non-organic failure to thrive). The

threshold of significant harm is reached when abusive interactions dominate and become typical of the relationship between the child and the parent/guardian.

### 3. **Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse is any form of non-accidental injury that causes significant harm to a child, including:

- a. Shaking
- b. Use of excessive force in handling;
- c. Deliberate poisoning;
- d. Suffocation;
- e. Munchausen's syndrome by proxy (where parents/guardians fabricate stories of illness about their child or cause physical signs of illness);
- f. Allowing or creating a substantial risk of significant harm to a child;
- g. For children with disabilities it may include confinement to a room or cot, or incorrectly given drugs to control behaviour.

### 4. **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others, For example:

- a. Exposure of the sexual organs or any sexual act intentionally performed in the presence of a child;
- b. Intentional touching or molesting of the body of a child whether by a person or object for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification;
- c. Forcing/enticing a child to take part in sexual activities
- d. Sexual exploitation of a child;

It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

#### **Incidents that must be reported/recorded**

If any of the following occur you should report this immediately to the appropriate officer and record the incident. You should also ensure the parents of the child are informed:

- If you accidentally hurt a Child
- If he/she seems distressed in any manner.
- If a child appears to be sexually aroused by your actions.
- If a child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

#### **Recruitment and training of staff and volunteers**

*SHBC* recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. Pre-selection checks must include the following:

- All volunteers/staff should complete an application form. The application form will elicit information about an applicant's past and a self disclosure about any criminal record.
- Consent should be obtained from an applicant to seek information from the Criminal Records Bureau.
- Two confidential references, including one regarding previous work with children. These references must be taken up and confirmed through telephone contact.
- Evidence of identity (passport or driving licence with photo).

If the coach or a volunteer suspects abuse of any type they must report it immediately to Child protection officer.