

CHILD PROTECTION AND  
VULNERABLE ADULTS  
INFORMATION PACK

**Policy Document:**

Last updated	Mar 2021
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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The management committee, directors and volunteers / staff in Row the Erne are committed to practices, which protects young people from harm. It is committed to safeguarding the well being of all its members. All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club. We believe that taking part in building and rowing traditional boats should be a positive and enjoyable part of children's lives.

Volunteers / workers in this organisation accept and recognise our responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues, under the UN Convention on the rights for child, The Child Care Act 1991, Child (NI) Order 1995 about safeguarding our members. Any other legislation either in (NI) that is relevant should also be taken into account. All Volunteers / staff should be made aware of the Duty of Care document that is published.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

As an organisation working with children, we will endeavour to:

- Promote the general welfare, health and full development of children and protect them from harm of all kinds.
- Recognise that children have rights as individuals and treat them with dignity and respect.
- Plan the work of the Organisation so as to minimise opportunities for children to suffer harm.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and mission statements at regular intervals.

## **CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER**

Clare McGovern is the Child Protection Officer for the year Jan 2020 to Dec 2020 and can be contacted at [safeguarding@rowtheerne.com](mailto:safeguarding@rowtheerne.com) and 07830117766.

All disclosure or concern of abuse must be reported to the above named person.

## **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

Row the Erne will strive to protect children and young people by:

- Adopting proper recruitment procedures for the appointment of all volunteers who have substantial contact with children and/or young people.
- Providing support for all volunteers working with children and young people.
- Providing training opportunities for all volunteers on the issue of child protection.
- Working with groups of children and young people to agree a programme of activities.
- Circulating the agreed programme to all families participating.

As previously outlined there are different types of abuse; these include, physical abuse, child neglect, emotional abuse and sexual abuse. Below are details of the signs of each type of abuse:

### **Signs of Physical Abuse**

- Unexplained bruising in soft tissue areas.
- Repeated injury.
- Black eye /s.
- Injuries to the mouth.
- Torn or blood stained clothing.
- Burns and scalds.
- Bites.
- Fractures.
- Marks from implements.
- Inconsistent stories / excuses relating to injuries.

### **Signs of Child Neglect**

- Nutritional deprivation.
- Persistently dirty / smelly clothing and appearance.
- Inadequate clothing.
- Non-healing of injuries / ailments.
- Signs of parental neglect.

### **Signs of Sexual Abuse**

- Hints about sexual activity / abuse.
- Age-inappropriate understanding of sexual behaviour (especially young children).
- Inappropriate seductive behaviour.
- Inappropriate sexual play with other children or toys.
- Preoccupation with touching sexual parts of the body.
- Blood stained under clothing.
- Reluctance to remove clothing.
- Excessive fears or dislike of adults / other children.
- Other behavioural signs.

### **Signs of Emotional Abuse**

- Aggressive behaviour.

- Lack of trust.
- Excessive attachment to adults
- Extreme demand for attention.
- Depressed appearance.
- Change in characteristic way of behaving.
- Withdrawal / regressive behaviour.

### **HOW TO DEAL WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE**

- 1) It is important to deal with any allegations of abuse in a sensitive and competent way through listening to and facilitating the child to tell about the problem, rather than interviewing the child about details of what has happened.
- 2) It is important to stay calm and not to show any extreme reaction to what the child is saying. Listen compassionately and take what the child is saying seriously.
- 3) It should be understood that the child has decided to tell about something very important and has taken a risk to do so. The experience of telling should be a positive one so that the child will not mind talking to those involved in the investigations.
- 4) No judgement statement should be made about the person against whom the allegation is made.
- 5) The child should be reassured that s/he was right to tell and that s/he will be helped. However, false promises should not be made, such as saying that no one else will be told.
- 6) The child should not be questioned unless the nature of what s/he is saying is unclear. Leading questions should be avoided. Open, non-specific questions should be used, such as: "Can you explain to me what you mean by that?"
- 7) The child should be given an indication of what should happen next, such as informing parents, report to statutory Authorities, etc. it should be kept in mind that the child may have been threatened and may feel very vulnerable at this stage.
- 8) It may be appropriate for the person who has received the information to consult with another adult. Such consultation should be entirely confidential and should not involve investigative procedures.
- 9) A detailed account of any discussion regarding alleged or suspected abuse should be written as soon as possible after it has taken place. (Please use disclosure of alleged child abuse form).

## RECORDING SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE FORM

**In any case, if you have concerns about a child, a record should be made.**

- ❖ Name of child / young person: \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ Parents name: \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ Home Address and Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are these your own concerns or are you passing on the concerns of someone else? Please record details:

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What has prompted the concerns; please include dates / times of specific incidents if possible?

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Are there any physical or behavioural signs of abuse? Please give details:

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Have you spoken to the child about your concerns? If so, please give details:

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Have the parents of the child been contacted regarding this matter? If so, please give details:

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Has anyone else been contacted? If so, record details:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCLOSURE OF ALLEGED CHILD ABUSE

❖ Name of child / young person: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ When was the disclosure made? Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Where was the disclosure made? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the immediate circumstances leading to the disclosure?

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Were others present at the time of the disclosure? If so, what role did they play:

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What did the child / young person say to you? Please specify any names, relationships, dates and times, or places mentioned by the child / young person:

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Describe the behaviour of the child / young person as they were talking to you:

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What feelings were expressed by the child / young person before, during and after the disclosure?

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Describe any physical evidence of abuse on the child / young person:

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Did you and the child / young person agree any future course of action?

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE

Please inform the relevant person named below if you have any concerns about a child being abused:

### Row the Erne committee/Directors

- Child protection officer: Clare McGovern.
- Address: 8 Windmill Road, Enniskillen ,Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. BT74 7HF
- Telephone: 07830117766
- Email: [safeguarding@rowtheerne.com](mailto:safeguarding@rowtheerne.com)

Appropriate contacts outside the organisation:

- Social Services office: Community Services Department
- Address: Coleshill, Enniskillen
- Telephone number: 028 6634 4000
- Out of Hours Emergency Service: Erne Hospital: 028 71865195

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- Police Station: Enniskillen Police Station
  - Address: Queen Elizabeth Road, Enniskillen
  - Telephone Number: 028 6632 2823

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- NSPCC Helpline: 0800 800 500  
(Child protection helpline 24hrs)

If you are concerned that a child or young person has been abused or is at risk of abuse, the one thing you must not do is **NOTHING!!**

You must be aware of the appropriate procedures to follow if you have suspicions or if an allegation is made about abuse.

In all cases staff and volunteers should follow this plan of action:

**LISTEN – BELIEVE – REASSURE – RECORD – REPORT – RECORD YOUR REPORT – GET SUPPORT.**

**DON'T:**

- Panic.
- Promise to keep secrets.
- Ask leading questions.
- Make the child repeat the story unnecessarily.
- Delay.
- Start to investigate.

**The primary responsibility of the person who first suspects or is told of abuse is to report it and to ensure that their concern is taken seriously.**

**If Row the Erne skippers, helms, leaders or volunteers have any concerns, they must fill out a suspicion of abuse form and pass on this information to the relevant person within the organisations.**

**Signed on Behalf of Row the Erne Committee/Directors :**

**Committee/Directors:**

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**Position within Committee/Directors:**

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