

Stepps Chess Club

Child Protection Policy

Stepps Chess Club recognises that non action is not an action in Child Protection.

Every child or young person who plays or participates in chess activities organised by Stepps Chess Club, is entitled to be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of all members of Stepps Chess Club.

Stepps Chess Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people participating at its club and events by protecting them from physical and mental harm, including bullying. Stepps Chess Club recognises its obligations to ensure that it provides the appropriate standard of care.

The key principles underpinning this policy are as follows:-

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, of paramount consideration.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- The club ensures that all our volunteers are carefully selected and have disclosure checked through Disclosure Scotland and are members of the PVG Scheme, under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 and that they are monitored and supported.

Stepps Chess Club representative will ensure that the policy and regulations on child protection are upheld and practised by the Club to work in partnership with children and young people of the Club, and their parents, in accordance with Stepps Chess Club's policy and procedures.

These procedures and policies are in place to ensure that children and young people have fun in a safe environment.

Guidelines

- Wherever possible, ensure that there is more than one adult present when working with young people during chess club and training sessions.
- Be aware that even caring physical contact with a young person can be misconstrued, and someone might misinterpret such actions, no matter how well intentioned.
- Do not be drawn into inappropriate conversations or make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people.

- Do not exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.

What to do...

If a child or young person discloses to you abuse by someone else

- Allow him or her to speak without interruption, accepting what is said, but do not investigate
- Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement
- Let them know you are glad they have shared this information with you
- Advise the child you must pass on the information

If you suspect a child or young person is being abused

- Report the matter to the Stepps Chess Club Child Protection Officer

If you receive an allegation about any adult

- Immediately report the matter in the first instance to Stepps Chess Club Child Protection Officer
- Stepps Child Protection Officer will refer the matter to Social Work Department and / or Police¹

In all cases

- Record the statement made by the child to the adult(s) and report these to the Stepps Chess Club Child Protection Officer
- You must refer - you must not investigate

This policy will be reviewed in the light of experience, changes in the law and at least annually.

¹ The Child Protection Officer will record salient information on the Child Protection Incident Report