

REYC SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT - 2019

Reference:

- A. Children Act 2004.
- B. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- C. JSP 834, Section 3.

This Policy covers REYC's responsibilities under the References. In the context of the References and this policy, a 'young person' refers to anybody under the age of 18. A 'vulnerable adult' is covered by UK legislation and, for MOD activity, JSP 834 if he or she is receiving registered care, health, community care or welfare services.

It is the policy of REYC that young persons and vulnerable adults, attending or taking part in REYC events, should be safeguarded from physical, sexual and emotional abuse. REYC recognises that the safety and welfare of young persons and vulnerable adults is paramount and that whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion, belief, social station or sexual identity, they have a right to protection from abuse. REYC recognises that safeguarding young persons and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with them.

REYC does not provide training or other activities for young persons and vulnerable adults. This means that young persons and vulnerable adults attending REYC social events must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or designated adult, preferably a member of REYC, who takes full responsibility for their welfare and behaviour.

The above policy and the following guidelines and procedures will be brought to the attention of the membership and be reviewed from time to time.

In the Royal Engineers very few soldiers are under 18 by the time they leave Phase 1 training. The training, oversight and assurance required to ensure effective safeguarding for organised children's sailing are not warranted for the occasional individual who might attend Club organised or managed sailing. The Club therefore chooses not to train or take these few individuals sailing until they turn 18. This aligns with Army Sailing Association policy. The REYC does not have facilities or boats to undertake sailing with vulnerable adults without external assistance from qualified expert external bodies.

If RE training units or cadet forces organise sailing using REYC boats for their young people or children they must do so within the remit of their own safeguarding policies and organisations. The REYC will not instruct young people or organise sailing for them. Club members who charter Club yachts and take their children or other young people as crew have full responsibility for them.

PROCEDURES

Minimising Risk. REYC will not organise sailing activities for young people or vulnerable adults. Nonetheless, all members of REYC should:

- avoid situations where advantage could be taken of a young person or vulnerable adult
- avoid spending time with a young person or vulnerable adult in isolation
- not engage in inappropriate touching or suggestive language, even in fun
- not allow young persons or vulnerable adults to use inappropriate language or behaviour, unchallenged
- not do things for young persons or vulnerable adults of a personal nature, that they can do for themselves

- not take or publish photographs of young persons or vulnerable adults, without the consent of their parent or guardian

Handling Concerns and Allegations. All members who witness abuse or have abuse reported to them by a young person or vulnerable adult that relates to Club members or activity should :

- take any allegations seriously, but do not investigate further
- if the person requires urgent medical attention, call an ambulance and inform the hospital doctor of the concern or allegation
- report any concerns or allegations to the Safeguarding Officer, and keep a record of the incident(s) including possible dates and times
- if the Safeguarding Officer is not available, report the matter directly to Social Services or the Police
- treat all information confidentially.

Role of the Safeguarding Officer. REYC appoints a Safeguarding Officer to whom any concerns or allegations about abuse to young persons or vulnerable adults should be addressed. REYC's Safeguarding Officer is Mark Johnson-Ferguson. The principal responsibilities of the Club Safeguarding Officer are:

- implementing the above policy, guidelines and procedures
- being the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations about, or from, young persons or vulnerable adults
- deciding on the appropriate course of action for any reports of abuse
- treating all information confidentially