



Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction:

Blaydon ASC is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people involved in its activities. This Child Protection Policy outlines our commitment to creating a safe and positive environment where children can participate in swimming activities free from harm, abuse, or exploitation.

2. Policy Statement:

Blaydon ASC has a zero-tolerance approach to any form of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation. We are committed to promoting the welfare of children and young people by providing a safe environment, implementing robust safeguarding procedures, and ensuring that all individuals involved in the club act in the best interests of children at all times.

3. Definitions:

- **Child:** A person under the age of 18 years.
- **Abuse:** Any form of physical, emotional, or sexual harm inflicted on a child, including neglect, exploitation, and maltreatment.
- **Safeguarding:** The process of protecting children from harm, ensuring their well-being, and promoting their welfare.

4. Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Club Committee:** The club committee is responsible for implementing and monitoring the child protection policy, appointing a designated welfare officer, and ensuring that appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place.
- **Designated Welfare Officer:** The designated welfare officer is responsible for overseeing safeguarding procedures, providing support and guidance to coaches and volunteers, and ensuring that any concerns or allegations of abuse are reported and addressed promptly and appropriately.
- **Coaches and Volunteers:** Coaches and volunteers are responsible for adhering to the club's code of conduct, promoting the welfare of children, and reporting any concerns or suspicions of abuse to the designated welfare officer.

5. Recruitment and Training:

- All staff and volunteers who will be working with children must undergo appropriate recruitment procedures, including background checks and reference checks.
- Staff and volunteers must receive training on child protection policies and procedures, including how to recognize and respond to signs of abuse or neglect.

6. Reporting Procedures:

- Any concerns or suspicions of abuse or neglect must be reported to the designated welfare officer immediately.
- The designated welfare officer will follow the club's reporting procedures and, where necessary, report concerns to the relevant authorities, such as social services or the police.

7. Response:

- Blaydon ASC will take all reports of abuse or neglect seriously and will respond promptly and appropriately to ensure the safety and well-being of the child.
- All concerns will be reported via the process directed within the Wavepower 2024 documentation. A link to this document will be provided on the website, as well as below:

[Wavepower 2024](#)

8. Review and Monitoring:

- This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that it remains effective and compliant with relevant legislation and best practices.
- The implementation of the policy will be monitored and evaluated to assess its impact on safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

9. Communication and Awareness:

- The child protection policy will be communicated to all stakeholders, including club members, parents, coaches, and volunteers, and will be made readily available on the club's website.
- Awareness of child protection issues will be promoted within the club through training sessions, educational materials, and ongoing communication.

Blaydon ASC is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment where children can develop their swimming skills and enjoy their participation in club activities. We will continue to work proactively to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in our club and to promote their well-being at all times.

