

Cheltenham and County Cycling Club Safeguarding Adults Policy

Introduction

Cheltenham and County Cycling Club is dedicated to safeguarding adults in accordance with national legislation and relevant guidelines. We strive to deliver all activities in a manner that prioritizes safety and fosters a culture of zero tolerance for harm. This includes recognizing adults at risk, understanding the signs of abuse, exploitation, or neglect, and ensuring all concerns are reported appropriately—whether they arise within club activities or the wider community (where relevant). We aspire to best practices and upholding every adult’s right to live free from harm.

Purpose

This policy outlines Cheltenham and County Cycling Club’s commitment to safeguarding adults. It ensures all members understand:

- Relevant policies, and procedures.
- Their individual responsibilities regarding safeguarding.
- The appropriate steps to take or contacts to approach if concerns arise about an adult’s welfare.

Scope

- This policy and its procedures apply to all individuals involved with Cheltenham and County Cycling Club. It covers all safeguarding concerns related to club activities and in the wider community. We expect partner organizations, affiliates, suppliers, and sponsors to uphold these principles and practices.

Policy Statement

Cheltenham and County Cycling Club affirms that every individual has the right to live free from abuse or neglect, regardless of age, ability, sex, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender status. We are committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive environment and an open culture where concerns can be raised without fear. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility,

and we aim to prevent abuse and neglect by promoting the welfare of all adults involved. Our actions will comply with relevant legislation and local procedures, ensuring prompt, proportionate responses that respect the views and rights of the adult concerned.

Commitments

Cheltenham and County Cycling Club will:

- Ensure all members are aware of safeguarding procedures and know how to report concerns.
- Respond promptly and appropriately to any safeguarding concerns.
- Prioritize the well-being of those at risk and support them in expressing their views and desired outcomes.
- Take actions that respect the rights and dignity of all involved, proportionate to the level of risk.
- Maintain confidential, accurate records of safeguarding concerns in line with data protection policies.
- As far as is practicable, follow best practice guidance from relevant national bodies and authorities.
- Cooperate with police and local authorities as required.
- Share information about individuals who pose a risk with relevant authorities.
- Assess safeguarding risks when planning activities and designate a safeguarding lead for events (where appropriate).
- Review safeguarding actions and policies regularly, at least every two years or when legislation changes.

Person-Centred Safeguarding

Adults have the right to make their own choices, even if these involve risk. Safeguarding should be tailored to the individual's wishes and desired outcomes. Engaging adults in decision-making enhances their involvement, control, and quality of life.

Principles of Adult Safeguarding

The club adheres to the following principles:

- **Empowerment:** Supporting individuals to make informed decisions.

- **Prevention:** Acting before harm occurs.
- **Proportionality:** Responding appropriately to the level of risk.
- **Protection:** Supporting those most in need.
- **Partnership:** Working with communities and agencies to prevent and address abuse.
- **Accountability:** Ensuring transparency and responsibility in safeguarding actions.

Mental Capacity and Decision Making

Unlike children, all adults are presumed to have capacity to make their own decisions unless proven otherwise. The club is committed through its Safeguarding Team to help individuals make decisions where possible. If a person lacks capacity, decisions must be made in their best interests, with the least restriction on their rights and freedoms. In emergencies, actions may be taken to protect individuals who cannot decide for themselves.

Recording and Information Sharing

All safeguarding concerns must be recorded accurately and stored securely, in line with data protection laws. Information should only be shared with those who need to know, and, where possible, with the consent of the individual(s) concerned. Exceptions apply if there is a risk of harm, a crime has been committed, or the individual lacks capacity. All decisions regarding information sharing must be documented.