

Bury St Edmunds Reel Club



Safeguarding Policy

Nominated Safeguarding Lead – Susan Marshall

Chairperson – Lynne Kentish

Policy date – 17 September 2023

Policy review date – 17 September 2025

Bury St Edmunds Reel Club aims to provide safe, social and instructional access to Scottish country dance for adults within the Bury St Edmunds area. In addition to the dances themselves, the club provides social activities and events which include Scottish country dance.

A central tenet of safeguarding is that safeguarding issues can arise in any organisation. Everyone has a responsibility to safeguarding. The systems and attitudes described in this policy promote the welfare of everyone taking part and are designed to keep you and others safe during club activities. Equal priority is given to keeping all attendees safe during club activities regardless of their; age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership status; pregnancy and maternity status; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. Bury St Edmunds Reel Club recognise that some adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of discrimination, previous experiences, communication needs or other factors.

Safeguarding Risks

It is possible that you will become aware of a safeguarding concern within or outside of Bury St Edmunds Reel Club activities. If this happens during or in the course of attending or volunteering with the club this must be reported in accordance with this policy.

All attendees will be following the Code of Conduct for Attendees which has been drafted to mitigate some of the safeguarding risks present. No matter the mitigation, risk will remain and it is essential that all volunteers understand they have a role to play in protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Abuse, Neglect and Signs of Abuse or Neglect

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse. A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger and it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing. Children and young people who are neglected might have: poor appearance and hygiene; health or development problems; housing and family issues; or changes in behaviour.

Abuse is when a child is harmed, not by inaction as with neglect, but through specific actions. Some common signs that there may be something concerning happening include: unexplained changes in behaviour or personality; becoming withdrawn; seeming anxious; becoming uncharacteristically

aggressive; lacking social skills and having few friends, if any; poor bond or relationship with a parent; knowledge of adult issues inappropriate for their age; running away or going missing; or always choosing to wear clothes which cover their body.

People can also experience other forms of abuse e.g. radicalisation, sexual exploitation, trafficking, criminal exploitation and gangs. These can happen to anyone at any age. Non-recent abuse may also be disclosed to you. All forms of abuse or neglect, all concerns and disclosures must be reported.

Raising Concerns and Disclosures

If a person makes a disclosure or you become aware of a concern, listen carefully to what is being said. Let them know they have done the right thing to tell you and that you are taking what they have said seriously. You should also let them know what will happen next.

Do not promise confidentiality, as this information will need to be passed on. Remember that this will be a sensitive subject and should be shared only as strictly necessary to comply with the law and protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. Do not take matters into your own hands.

Disclosures form part of a broader picture which you will only have a small part of. The information needs to be passed on so it can be acted on correctly and safely. The information you have may seem small but may be crucial in understanding a very serious situation.

Responding to Concerns and Allegations

When concerns are raised about or by an attendee, a written record will be made as soon as possible. The Nominated Safeguarding Lead will then call the Professional Consultation Line on 03456 061 499 to speak with a MASH social worker. If the concern relates to the Nominated Safeguarding Lead, the concern should be passed to the Chairperson directly. Dependent on the advice received, the concern may be passed on to the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) at Suffolk County Council. In a time critical situation and in the absence of both the Nominated Safeguarding Lead and the Chairperson, the concern should be passed directly to Customer First on 0808 800 4005 or the police on 999. It should then be reported internally, as appropriate, at the first available opportunity.

Whistleblowing and Complaints

We take any complaints about safeguarding very seriously. If you think that we have taken or not taken an action that is a safeguarding risk, please raise this with the club in the first instance.

Alternatively, or where this is not appropriate, please raise your concerns directly with Suffolk County Council on the Customer First phoneline. Concerns about adults and children within and outside of the club can be raised in this way.