

4.20 Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

The Adventure Service Ltd

This policy sets out how The Adventure Service Ltd safeguards children and young people participating in outdoor learning, adventure, bushcraft, and nature-based provision. It aligns with statutory safeguarding guidance and CQC principles of safe, effective, caring, responsive, and well-led services.

1. Policy Statement

The Adventure Service Ltd recognises its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people accessing its outdoor and adventure provision. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is embedded within organisational culture, risk management, staff training, and operational practice.

Where there is a concern for the safety or wellbeing of any child or young person, The Adventure Service Ltd will act promptly, proportionately, and in partnership with statutory agencies to reduce risk and provide protection.

2. Safeguarding Principles

- Children and young people have the right to be safe, healthy, and supported to achieve their potential.
- All safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and responded to without delay.
- Abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any kind is unacceptable.
- Information is shared lawfully, proportionately, and in line with safeguarding thresholds.
- Accurate safeguarding records are maintained securely.
- All staff and volunteers hold enhanced DBS clearance and receive yearly children's safeguarding training.

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers.

The policy applies to all activities including outdoor learning, hillwalking, bushcraft, water-based activities, travel, short breaks, students on work placements or undertaking volunteer opportunities and community-based sessions.

4. Definitions

A child is defined as any person under the age of 18 years. Safeguarding definitions follow Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership guidance.

5. Code of Conduct & Professional Boundaries

- Maintain professional, respectful relationships at all times.
- Use only approved organisational communication channels.
- Do not engage in private or social media communication with children or young people.
- Avoid behaviour that could be misinterpreted or place staff at risk of allegation.
- Report any safeguarding concern immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

6. CQC-Aligned Safeguarding Approach

The Adventure Service Ltd aligns safeguarding practice with Care Quality Commission (CQC) expectations by ensuring:

- Safe: Risks are assessed, managed, and reviewed dynamically during outdoor activities.
- Effective: Staff are trained, competent, and follow clear safeguarding procedures.
- Caring: Children and young people are listened to, respected, and supported.
- Responsive: Concerns are acted upon promptly and proportionately.
- Well-Led: Clear leadership, accountability, and a culture of safeguarding.

7. Reporting Concerns

Any safeguarding concern must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Staff must not investigate concerns themselves.

Where concerns relate to staff or volunteers, referrals will be made to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

8. Record Keeping & Information Sharing

Safeguarding records are stored securely, shared on a need-to-know basis, and retained in line with data protection and safeguarding legislation.

9. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner in response to changes in legislation, guidance, or organisational practice.

Date	Version History	Checked/updated by
12 Dec 2025	1	Helen Harris-Ellis