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## **“RAISE THE BAR” SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY**

“Raise the Bar” Olympic Weightlifting club believes that children have the right to be completely secure from both the fear and reality of abuse and we are committed to protecting all the children who use the setting from harm in its widest sense.

All Coaches, Members and Volunteers connected to the “Raise the Bar” Olympic weightlifting club have a responsibility to monitor the wellbeing of children lifters/athletes and to safeguard them from harm at all times.

The club will need to appoint a member as the Child Protection Lead Officer. This Officer will be responsible for discussing concerns with the following services in any child protection matter:

- Children’s Social Care
- Local Authority Designated Officer ( LADO)
- Police

The Lead Officer, currently, Vika De Giorgi, should also ensure that child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and other guidance or advice from the [Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board](#) or NSPCC.

The Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board brings together representatives of each of the main agencies and professionals who have a duty to protect children from abuse and neglect. “Working Together” sets out how different services and professional groups should work together effectively regarding information sharing and communication to ensure good outcomes for children are achieved.

The Safeguarding policy and procedures should be reviewed at regular intervals, and will need to be shared with all coaches, current and new management, committee members, and volunteers.

Coaches / Management Committee Members / Volunteers should also refer to the <http://www.nscb.org.uk/staff-and-volunteers/procedures/1-introduction-and-principles>, for “What to do if you are worried a child is being abused – summary guide”.

The summary guide and the corresponding flow chart detailing the reporting system will need to be displayed on the site.

The Management Committee and all volunteers will have appropriate [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#), previously [Criminal Records Checks \(CRB\)](#), in place and register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (if and when required).

The Management committee have a legal responsibility to ensure that any individual/group which coaches club’s children-lifters is all cleared and have the supporting documents to confirm this.



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## Recognising Child Abuse

Child abuse manifests itself in a variety of different ways, some overt and others much less so. Recognition of abuse and neglect is not always easy or straightforward.

### *Physical Abuse:*

This involves hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, suffocating or any other physical harm. Deliberately causing a child's ill health also constitutes physical abuse. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child (formally known as Munchausen Syndrome by proxy).

### *Sexual Abuse:*

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, and touching outside of clothing.

They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males; women can also commit acts of sexual abuse as can other children.

### *Emotional abuse:*

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or making fun of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

### *Neglect:*

Neglect is the **persistent** failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the **serious** impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

## Procedure

The setting is committed to ensuring that it meets its responsibilities in respect of child protection by treating any concern/allegation seriously and sensitively. The setting will not carry out any investigation itself into a suspected child abuse incident.

### *Concerns about a child / young person*

Any concern raised by a child/young weightlifter or parent /carer will be taken seriously, and the Child Protection Lead Officer will **immediately** contact Children's Social Care to seek some advice regarding concern:

- A written account of the concern will need to be made and will include:
- Full details of the concern
- Details of all the parties involved
- Any evidence, explanations or relevant dates
- Any supporting information/evidence
- All information must be factual and state if the person's opinion is used.
- All documentation must be signed and dated by the person recording the information.
- All records must be securely stored and remain confidential during the investigation.

The setting will maintain contact with Children's Social Care and undertake any involvement that is required.

## Allegations against Management Committee/Volunteers/ External partners

Where a concern has been raised regarding a member of the committee/volunteers/external partners the following procedure must be followed:

- The **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** must be informed of the allegation.
- A Meeting with the individual will need to take place immediately to clearly inform them that they may be suspended without prejudice following the allegation with the setting following its own organisational policy. The individual must not be informed at this point the nature of the allegation.
- The individual will be asked to leave the premises and advised not to discuss any information regarding the allegation with anyone linked to the setting.
- The Child Protection Lead Officer and the individual must not discuss the allegation with any other persons both in and outside of the setting. This information must only be shared on a need to know basis.
- All information regarding the allegation/suspension must be thoroughly recorded and stored in a confidential and secure manner.



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A strategy meeting made up of representatives from the Children's Social Care, Police, Health and Lead Child Protection Officer (where appropriate). This group of professionals will make a decision on the appropriate course of action and the individual will be informed.

It is the responsibility of the lead agencies above to maintain contact and update the Lead Child Protection Officer and the individual throughout the investigation.

If the strategy group decide that there will be no further action the individual will be invited to return to the setting with appropriate support.

However, if the strategy group decide based on evidence that there has been inappropriate behaviour then the setting will follow their disciplinary procedure under misconduct.

## Contacts Numbers

- [Screening and Initial Response Team Cruddas Park](#): 0191 2772500
- [LADO](#) : 0191 2774636
- [Police](#): 999
- Newcastle Council's [Emergency Duty Social Care Team](#): 0191 277 25 00

## Allegations made about any person linked to the setting:

