

Southend on Sea Photographic Society



Vulnerable Person Protection Policy

Photography offers great opportunities, but all young people and vulnerable adults have a right to protection and this Society has a role in that. Protection of young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility. The child/vulnerable adult's welfare should always be the first consideration in any situation, but it should be remembered that parent(s)/guardian/carer retain responsibility at all times and should be involved as appropriate. [This policy isn't asking people to be parent(s)/guardians/carers]

This policy sets out the principles behind protecting children/vulnerable adults and, in some circumstances, the action you should take. It is based on the advice from the PAGB – February 2015

Scope

Definitions are:

Child – young person under 18

Vulnerable adult – person aged 18 or over and who is in need of additional care due to illness or mental/physical disability.

Note:

A child under 16 years must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian. If not prepared to accompany a child, the Club requires the parent/legal guardian to nominate in writing a responsible adult. The parent/legal guardian remains responsible for the child prior to arrival at the Club and once they leave the Club. If a child arrives at the Club unaccompanied, they will not be admitted.

A child, age 16 or 17 years, may attend the Club provided the Club has the written permission of the parent/legal guardian.

A vulnerable adult may attend the Society with appropriate support, as necessary. If unaccompanied, the Society must have the contact number of a carer in case of emergency.

Recognising and reporting abuse

It is not the responsibility of members of the club to decide if abuse has taken place but if a Member has concerns these should be reported. If you think you have spotted the signs of sexual, emotional, physical abuse or neglect <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/signs-symptoms-effects>, these should be referred to children/vulnerable adult's social care or, Southend Child Protection Team: 01702 215007, out of hours 0345 606 1212 or if an emergency, the police. If you are unsure and would like to talk to someone, call the NSPCC 0808 800 5000.

Abuse by a member of the Club

Sadly, some people will actively seek out ways to harm young people and vulnerable adults and may use clubs to approach them with inappropriate suggestions/touching. Concerns about individuals should be reported to the Society Chairman. Records should be kept about referrals made and information shared on a need-to-know basis.

Good practice

Personal care of children/vulnerable adults will remain the responsibility of the parent/carer.

Any Society member must not be in a situation where they are alone with a child/vulnerable adult.

Parents/carers should be informed about and give permission for:

- lifts home or to events
- involvement in events where the taking or viewing of images may be considered suggestive or indecent
- attendance at a studio evening.

Inappropriate situations must be avoided; these may include:

- inappropriate touching
- allowing children/vulnerable adults to be photographed in inappropriate situations
- allowing children/vulnerable adults to see inappropriate material
- allowing children/vulnerable adults to operate unsuitable equipment, including the water boiler
- using inappropriate language within earshot of a child/vulnerable adult.

The Society will not use models under the age of 18 during studio nights or other activities.

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