



# *Tyneside Ignite Cheerleading CIC*

## Safeguarding Policy

### Contents

Policy Statement.....	2
Policy.....	2
Legal Framework.....	2
Definitions.....	2
Responsibilities.....	3
Procedures.....	3
Recruitment.....	4
Training.....	4
Code of Conduct.....	4
Monitoring and Review.....	4
Contact Information.....	4

## Policy Statement

Tyneside Ignite Cheerleading CIC and Ignite Barnsley (Ignite Cheerleading) is fully committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all members, particularly children and vulnerable adults. We fully understand the role that we play in safeguarding the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community and how we can help protect those who are unable to protect themselves. We understand that as a club, we must take into account current legislation when carrying out our duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

## Policy

Ignite Cheerleading acknowledges that many children and young people suffer from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse in addition to neglect. Ignite Cheerleading has implemented the policies outlined in this document to guarantee that we always give everyone in our care the necessary level of protection, assistance, and encouragement.

The policy describes the organisational guidelines, legal requirements, and best practices that Ignite Cheerleading follows for all its staff, coaches, volunteers and members. It lays out established protocols for handling complaints of abuse, including those directed at our volunteers and employees.

The policy is mandatory to all staff, coaches, guest coaches, choreographers, participants, and anyone involved with Ignite Cheerleading.

Anyone with concerns about protecting children has an obligation to notify the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy. The decision regarding whether to report concerns to the police or Children's Services.

## Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR
- The Care Act 2014

Additionally, the following organisations have provided guidance for the implementation of this policy:

- South Tyneside Council Safeguarding (<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/13720/Safeguarding-policies-and-procedures>)
- Barnsley Council Safeguarding ([Safeguarding families in Barnsley](#))
- NSPCC (<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/>)
- NSPCC Child Protection in Sport (<https://thecpsu.org.uk/>)
- UK Cheerleading Association (<https://ukca.org.uk/2017/01/safeguarding/>)

## Definitions

- Child: any person under the age of 18.
- Vulnerable Adult: Any person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age, or illness.
- Abuse: Includes physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect.

## Responsibilities

### Management Committee

- Ensure the implementation and review of this policy.
- Appoint a designated Safeguarding Officer.

### Safeguarding Officer

- Act as the main point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Initiate communication with Local Authority Social Services if a child or young person is in danger.
- Ensure all incidents are recorded and acted upon.
- Provide advice and support to staff and volunteers.
- making sure that all employees and volunteers adhere to and completely execute policies and procedures.
- Handling grievances on substandard performance and accusations directed at employees and volunteers.
- Contributing to the revision and updating of the safeguarding policy and procedures.

### Staff and Volunteers

- Adhere to the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Attend regular training on safeguarding.
- Report any concerns to the Safeguarding Officer.

## Procedures

### Reporting Concerns

Any concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer immediately. In the absence of the Safeguarding Officer, concerns should be reported to the Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

### Responding to Disclosures

- Listen carefully to the individual.
- Reassure them they have done the right thing by speaking up.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Record the disclosure accurately.
- Report the disclosure to the Safeguarding Officer promptly.

### Informing parents or guardians

Organisations will be expected to be more open and responsible about how they use data for information gathering, archiving, and sharing under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. Unless there are issues with the child's welfare of safety, sharing information with another agency typically requires consent. When it is thought that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer from any of the following, consent is not required:

It is good practice to be honest and open with parents or guardians about your concerns and the necessity of a referral in cases that don't meet this threshold. Prior to discussing concerns with Children's Services, every effort should be made to notify parents or guardians however, if concerns cannot be discussed with a parent or guardian, this should not be postponed.

When a child indicates that they do not want their parents or guardian to know, those feelings should be respected, and the decision of whether to honour the child's wishes should be based on the child's age and understanding.

## Recruitment

- Implement safe recruitment practices including DBS checks for all staff and volunteers.
- Obtain at least two references for new staff and volunteers.

## Training

- Provide mandatory safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers.
- Conduct regular refresher training sessions.

## Code of Conduct

All members of Ignite Cheerleading are expected to:

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Act as a positive role model.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries.
- Be cautious when discussing sensitive issues with children and young people.
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and report all allegations or suspicions of abuse.
- Follow all procedures as well as the organisation's guidelines.

## Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Management Committee.
- Any changes in legislation or guidance will prompt an immediate review.
- Feedback from staff, volunteers, and participants will be considered in the review process.

## Contact Information

- Safeguarding officer: Kerry Main
- Barnsley safeguard officer: Ashton Clarke
- Deputy safeguarding officer: Joanne Burrows
- Email: [safeguard@ignitecheer.co.uk]
- Phone (in emergency only): [07894808652]

**Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Introduction [3.2] and Child protection [3.7]**