



# Safeguarding at Porthtowan SLSC

## 2024/25

Good safeguarding at our club is about creating a safe, equal and happy environment that enables our young people to thrive.

Our **Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) is Adam Richards** and whilst it is the responsibility of everyone in the club to keep children safe, it is his role to oversee safeguarding within the club. Adam is a Level 3 Safeguarding officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead at a large primary school.

**Dr Anna Shekdar is our Deputy Club Safeguarding Officer** and supports the CSO with any safeguarding issues. Anna is an consultant in emergency medicine at Treliske Hospital.

If you ever have any questions or concerns at all, then please do not hesitate to speak to him in person or contact him by phone 07792 533331 or by email at [porthtowannippers@gmail.com](mailto:porthtowannippers@gmail.com).

### Key Contacts:

Club President and whistleblowing officer:	Gail Frost	07817541160
National Safeguarding Officer:	Jan Reid	01392 369111
Multi Agency Referral Unit:		0300 123 1116
LADO:		01872 326536

You can download the full SLSGB Safeguarding Guidance here. Adam has produced this helpful summary of it below, with page numbers of the full document in brackets throughout in case you would like to read further.

### The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Protect children/young people and vulnerable adults,
- Provide Club members responsible for and working with young people
- vulnerable adult's clear guidance on our commitment and approach to managing safeguarding.

The Policy applies to all Club Officers, Members and anyone working for or under the direction of the Club.

The Club confirms that it will use its best endeavours to adhere to the Safeguarding Guidance provided by SLSGB.

The Club will appoint and maintain a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) and a Deputy Safeguarding Officer (DSO). The Club will inform SLSGB who they are and update this information when there are changes. Safeguarding Officers must also be members of SLSGB and hold a valid DBS.

The CSO will be responsible for ensuring policy and procedures are explained, publicised, followed and adhered to within the Club. The CSO will ensure that there are procedures in place within the Club so that the CSO must be informed of all safeguarding concerns to ensure appropriate action is taken.

The CSO should establish and maintain regular contact with the SLSGB Safeguarding Officer and should keep themselves updated with new safeguarding developments provided by SLSGB.

**The Club undertakes and confirms it will ensure that:**

- The DSO and CSO are SLSGB trained and when required updated by SLSGB to ensure that all Club safeguarding activities are carried out in compliance with the latest SLSGB guidance to protect children/young people and vulnerable adults.
- All Club members holding SLSGB Awards that include Safeguarding Awareness training have current and valid safeguarding training (those who are applicable can be identified through the SLSGB NSO)
- All Club Members are aware of and have access to the SLGB Safeguarding Awareness Training.

**Summary of SLSGB's safeguarding policy**

**Guidance on Physical Contact**

Surf Life Saving is a sport that at times necessitates children / young people to be in physical contact with each other (for example when carrying out a board rescue or a tow). There may also be occasions when a coach or helper might have physical contact with a child in a coaching session. This however should only be in the following circumstances:

- To demonstrate a skill or technique
- To treat an injury
- To prevent an injury or accident from occurring

In these circumstances the following practices will be observed:

- The reason for the contact should be explained
- The permission of the child should be asked
- The contact will not be in a sensitive area

**Discipline**

There may be times when a coach needs to apply some discipline either to protect an individual or group from accidents / harm or because an individual's behaviour is persistently disrupting a session. This will usually take the form of a verbal warning, followed by exclusion from an

activity if disruptive behaviour persists and as a last resort a child / young person might be asked to leave a session. Such actions should only be used:

- To develop a responsibility for behaviour
- To develop respect for others
- To reinforce awareness of health and safety
- To reinforce the rules / values of the sport and positive attitudes/behaviours

### **Ratios**

The club will operate within published coach-to-participation safety ratios for open water sessions and age-related OFSTED ratio guidelines for beach sessions. These can be found on p20 of the policy.

### **Changing**

The Club has two gender specific changing rooms with showers for members to use abiding by these rules:

- During junior sessions – only juniors allowed to change in the changing rooms
- During nipper sessions – only nippers and parents who are assisting are allowed to change in the changing rooms
- At all other times the changing rooms are for all members. If there are any nipper members changing then any adults must keep themselves safe by ensuring they are not on their own in the changing room with any children to avoid any allegations.

Truro school swimming pool has a changing area that is used by both adults and children and also both by members of the public as well as club members. The following guidelines have been agreed and we would appreciate your co-operation in following the guidelines:

- Since changing will be in changing rooms, adults & children can change at the same time (although to take the pressure off the demands on the changing rooms separate times will be adopted where possible)
- If possible, all changing by adults and children should take place in private cubicles and children should not be allowed to use the larger communal changing rooms. All adults should only change in the changing rooms if there is another adult present and robes/towels must be used.
- Only one person should be in a cubicle at once. Nippers should not share cubicles and adults should at no time be in cubicles with children (with the sole exception of when a parent is assisting their own child if needed).
- No mobile phones or any other devices with cameras should be used in the changing rooms.
- If a child needs to leave the pool early for any reason please could the coach/helper ensure that they are escorted to their parent or nominated adult rather than them going directly to the changing rooms.

. Everyone should keep their bags in lockers when they swim so that cubicles are left free to be used without interruption.

(\*). From this point on the parent / nominated adult becomes responsible for them.

· At the beginning and end of the session there will supervision of the changing facilities by nominated coaches / helpers. This supervision will be as discreet as possible to allow everyone privacy.

### **Collection of children**

It is our policy that each child has a parent / carer / nominated loco parentis who brings them to the session, remains present during the session and picks them up at the end of the session. However, if for any reason that person is not present to collect them at the end of the session then the following procedure will be followed:

- The adult will be contacted by phone
- Two coaches / helpers will wait the child / young person until they arrive

Please note that in this circumstance your child will not be allowed to go home with anyone else without your permission.

### **Photography & Videos**

Consent for use of photographs is sought as part of the SLSGB membership form on joining the club. Please do let us know if you are no longer happy for pictures of your child to be used either in publicity or social media.

Other than parents/carers of participants, taking photos of their own children, only a designated Porthtowan team photographer is permitted to take photos / video.

Please note that mobile phones with camera / video functions must to be used in the changing rooms.

### **Bullying & Discrimination**

It is the right of each child / young person within the club to be free of fear of bullying, victimisation or discrimination of any kind. Whilst coaches and helpers will be vigilant for any signs of peer bullying please do speak to the club Safeguarding officer if you have any concerns that your child is being bullied or discriminated against.

### **Checking of Coaches & Helpers**

It is the policy of SLSGB to carry out an Enhanced DBS check (formerly known as a CRB check) for anyone who has a teaching / training / supervising role that is frequent (once a week or

more) or unsupervised (or cannot guaranteed to be supervised).

Whilst it is our policy not to let anyone work alone with children / young people in the club, it is our practice to obtain a DBS check for all of the following:

- coaches and assistant coaches; team managers; all officials and all regular Nipper / Youth helpers. Whilst we no longer require a DBS check from all parents in the club - it is important to ensure that anyone who helps with sessions regularly has a check.

### **Incidents**

Coaches will record incidents and speak to you if your child is accidentally hurt during a session or if they seem particularly distressed by anything. Likewise if anything comes to light of this nature after a session then do please let us know.