



Boccia Epsom and Ewell

Vulnerable Persons Protection Policy

Boccia Epsom and Ewell is a sports club for children, young people and other players who have physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties. The children and young people are usually accompanied by parents or carers, however, volunteers may work with the players on a 1-1 basis under supervision. Volunteers are aged 14 and over.

Volunteers aged 14 to 17 inclusive will always be supervised when working with children by a CRB checked member of the club. If a young volunteer raises a concern regarding their own welfare they will be treated in the same manner as any child attending The Bees.

It is essential that all staff understand and implement this policy. The policy will be explained to all staff as part of their induction to The Bees. 'Staff' refers to members of the Executive Committee, organizers, coaches and volunteers over the age of 18. Children and families will be made aware of the Child Protection policy when they enrol with The Bees.

Rationale

The Bees believe that all children and vulnerable adults should be safe from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 19) and the Children Act (1989). Guidance from Every Child Matters underpins this policy.

It is recognized that disabled young people are at a higher risk of abuse than non-disabled young people, but that they have an equal right to be safe. Language and communication may be a barrier to disclosure for the children as some of them use alternative or augmentative forms of communication. All staff and volunteers at The Bees need to be sensitive to this as well the level of the child's ability and understanding in responding to disclosures.

All those that come into contact with children and families in their everyday work have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is not The Bees task to decide whether or not a child has been abused. The Bee's task is to refer concerns to the statutory services.

The Bees may be involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children any of three ways:

1. The Bees may have concerns that a child is at risk of significant harm; refer those concerns to social services or the police.
2. The Bees may be approached by social services and asked to provide information about a child or family involved in a child protection assessment. Sections 27 and 47 of the Children Act 1989 enable local authorities to request help from specified authorities and place an obligation on those authorities to cooperate.

3. The Bees may be asked to carry out a specific type of assessment, or provide help or a specific service to the child or a member of their family as part of an agreed plan.

Policy

The Executive Committee has the overall responsibility for implementing and reviewing this policy. One member of the Executive Committee will be designated responsibility for child protection issues. The Child Protection policy will be reviewed every three years.

In provision of the service to children, The Bees will do the following in order to safeguard children.

- 1 All members of the Executive Committee, officials and coaches will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.
- 2 There is a recommendation that all other volunteers over the age of 18 are also subjected to an enhanced CRB check.
- 3 Character references will be sought for all staff including volunteers over the age of 14.
- 4 Any concerns that potential staff may pose a risk to any child or young person would not result in their acceptance as staff of The Bees.
- 5 Any concerns that a member of staff may cause a risk to a child or young person would result in an investigation by the Executive Committee, with possible dismissal and/or referral to the police.
- 6 Only in exceptional circumstances would any member of The Bees be alone with a child.
- 7 All information held about The Bees children and young people will be maintained in a locked cabinet, available only to The Bees staff. Information may be shared with others with the consent of the children and their families. In the case of a child protection referral, permission is of benefit but not essential.
- 8 Children will be made aware of the limits of confidentiality; if a child discloses abuse about themselves or another child then The Bees worker/volunteer will discuss this with a designated member of the The Bees Executive Committee (The named Child Protection Officer).

Disclosure of Abuse, Observation of Injury or Neglect, Knowledge and Observation of Emotional Abuse.

- 1 Any concerns that a member of staff has that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm (S47 Children Act 1989) should always be referred to social services.
- 2 Any urgent medical need should be addressed as a priority.
- 3 The staff would inform the child or young person that they were concerned for the young person's safety and they will have to discuss this with Executive Committee and possibly social services and family. Children will be fully informed and involved in the process.
- 4 The designated member of the The Bees Executive Committee must be informed at the earliest opportunity.
- 5 The staff member and Executive Committee member would discuss the likelihood of harm to the child or young person, if it is felt that there is a risk then they will make a child protection referral to social services.
- 6 Parents will be informed and involved unless it is believed that this would cause further harm to the student or put the worker at risk.

- 7 The referral should be made to social services via telephone. Recognising the out-of-hours nature of the Bees, the referral may need to be made directly to the child's Local Social Services Emergency Duty Team. The referral should be submitted in writing as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours. A simple referral form is available.
- 8 Do not leave a message on an answerphone.
- 9 Participate in initial and core assessment undertaken by Social Services.
- 10 Receive feedback from social services on action.

Useful contacts

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| 1. | NSPCC HelpLine- Telephone | 0800 800 500 |
| 2. | ChildLine UK - Telephone | 0800 1111 |
| 3. | Surrey ACPC | 0208 541 7843 |
| 4. | Criminal Records Bureau | 0870 90 90 811 |
| 5. | Child Protection in Sport Unit | 0116 234 7273 |
| 6. | Sports Coach UK | 0113 274 4802 |

CONTACT LIST

Nominated Officers At Epsom & Ewell Borough Council	
Name	Telephone Number(s)
1. Nicola Gray	01372 732 000
2.	01372 732 000

Social Services- Surrey County Council (known locally as Surrey Children's Services)	
Name	Telephone Number(s)
1. Duty Social Worker (weekdays 9-5pm)	01372 832500
2. Emergency duty team (out of hours, weekends and public holidays)	01483 517898

Police	
Name	Telephone Number(s)
1. Surrey Police	01372 721212
2. Child Protection Team	01932 205542

References

Children Act 1989
 What to do if you are worried a child is being abused- Surrey CC
 Every Child Matters

Glossary

Staff- any volunteer, official, coach or Executive Committee member of The Bees,
Statutory services- social services, education or the police

The Child and Vulnerable Persons Protection Officer for the Bees

Liz Moulam, Chairman, 55 Beaconsfield Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 6HY

Tel: 01372 275424 or email bocciaee@aol.com

Other information

The United Nations class all individuals under the age of 18 as children. In the UK it is normal to refer to those up to the age of 11 as children and those 12 and over as young people. In the context of this policy the word child and young person is interchangeable and refers to anyone under the age of 18.

**Boccia – Epsom and Ewell
Child Protection Referral Form**

Name of Referrer	
Role within The Bees	
Name of Child	
Date of Birth	
Main Carer	
Address/ telephone	
Who does the child live with?	
Are you reporting your own concerns of those of others? Give details	
Brief description of what has prompted the concerns (include any dates and times of any specific incidents)	
Observations made by you:	

Physical signs? Behavioural signs? Indirect signs?	
Has anyone been alleged to be the abuser? If so give details	
Does the child require medical attention?	
Signature Name	
Date	