

Inverness Highland Games 2023

Child Protection Policy Statement

15th July 2023

We believe that every child regardless of age has, at all times and in all situations, a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. In our group, if we have suspicions about a child's physical, sexual or emotional well-being, we will take action.

We recognise that child protection should not be treated in isolation - we will take on board guidance given by Highland Child Protection Committee and will address recruitment and selection of volunteers and paid employees by doing the following:

1. We accept that it is our responsibility as a group to check that all adults in positions requiring disclosure checks are members of the appropriate Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme and have been appropriately vetted
2. We will ensure we have a record of personal details for any volunteers/staff working at the event
3. We will ensure that all staff are given Codes of Practice to work to
4. We will remove any member of staff or volunteer whom we know or suspect to have caused harm to a child or to have placed a child at risk of harm and we will notify Disclosure Scotland of our actions and the reasons for them, even if that person has left our group

All volunteers or staff are encouraged to share concerns with the group's Child Protection Lead. If the situation is urgent, the child is too frightened to go home or we have very serious doubts about the child's safety, we will contact Social Work or Police immediately.

Child Protection Is Everyone's Responsibility

We believe that every child regardless of age has, at all times and in all situations, a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice which results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. In our group, if we have suspicions about a child's physical, sexual or emotional well-being, we will take action.

All volunteers or staff will share concerns with the event's Child Protection Lead/Designated Person. If the situation is clearly an urgent case, the child is too frightened to go home or we have very serious doubts about the child's safety, we will contact Social Work Services or Police immediately.

If our concerns are more general about a child's welfare, then we will discuss these with our group's Child Protection Lead/Designated Person, who would then make a referral to an appropriate professional for assessment of the child's needs. It is important that all volunteers and staff communicate concerns accurately.

To this end, volunteers and staff will follow the procedures below;

1. Upon the receipt of any information from a child or suspicions, it is necessary to make an accurate and detailed written record of what they have seen, heard or know, at the time the event occurs;
2. Share their concerns with the Child Protection Lead for the group/event and agree what action to take;
3. Avoid asking any more questions than are necessary to clarify whether there is a concern. Always REFER to statutory services to undertake in depth INVESTIGATION of any suspicions or allegations about abuse.

If we have concerns we must act - it may be the final piece of the jigsaw that is needed to protect that child - or we may prevent, further children from being hurt.

Contact Numbers:

Police: Non-emergency	101
Emergency	999
Social Work Emergency Service (out of hours)	08457 697 284.

Event Safeguarding/Child Protection Lead is:
Kim Rait, IHG Event Manager
Tel: 07903 468789

Child Protection Policy Statement for Inverness Highland Games

We will:

- Ensure that the group leader holds a register of every child/protected adult involved with the group including relevant medical details and have a contact name and number close to hand in case of emergencies;
- Treat everyone with respect;
- Remember that some issues are confidential;
- Provide an example we would wish others to follow;
- Where possible consider activities which involve more than one adult being present or at least within sight and hearing of others;
- Be aware that someone else might misinterpret our actions even if they are well-intentioned;
- Respect a child's right to personal privacy;
- Provide time for children to talk to us;
- Encourage children and adults to respect and care for others;
- Take action to stop any inappropriate verbal or physical behavior;
- Remember to REPORT not INVESTIGATE any suspicions or allegations about abuse;
- Only share concerns and seek support from those identified in the group's child policy;

Designated Child Protection Officer for Inverness Highland Games is:

Name: Kim Rait
Contact Details: 07903 468789