



## **Wear Valley ASC Safeguarding Policy Statement**

Wear Valley Amateur Swimming Club is committed to provide an environment in which all children, young people and adults participating in its activities have a safe and positive experience.

In order to achieve this the club agrees to:

1. Adopt and implement the Swim England Wavepower 2024 policy in full.
2. Recognise that all children & adults participating in WVASC activities (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to enjoy their involvement in swimming in a safe environment and be protected from harm.
3. Ensure that the individuals who work with children and adults at WVASC whether paid or voluntary, provide a positive, safe & enjoyable experience for them.
4. Appoint a Club Welfare Officer with the necessary skills and training as outlined by Swim England. They will take the lead in dealing with all child & adult safeguarding matters. It is mandatory that the WO is not related to or in a close relationship with either chair/owner/proprietor or any coach/teacher in the organisation. This ensures independence and removes bias.
5. Ensure that the Club Welfare Officer's name & contact details are known to all staff, club members and parents of members.
6. The Welfare Officer is to be available to discuss issues of concern on matters of safeguarding and deal with such concerns appropriately and in line with Wavepower 2024.
7. Ensure all persons who work with children & adults at WVASC have undertaken the appropriate training and relevant CRB/DBS checks. They must adhere to the required practices for safeguarding children & adults as outlined in Wavepower 2024.

8. Ensure that all individuals working with children & adults at WVASC have been through the 'Safer Recruitment' process prior to appointment. This is to establish their suitability to work with children & adults at risk. It is in accordance with Wavepower 2024. **(Safer Recruitment WP, p.66)**

9. From 1st January 2024 anyone who holds a role which Wavepower states requires safeguarding training then needs to complete the Swim England course. It is tailored for swimming clubs. **(Wavepower, P.72)**

10. Provide all members & parents with the opportunity to raise concerns in a safe and confidential manner if they have a concern about someone's welfare.

11. Ensure that all child/adult safeguarding matters, whether they be concerns of welfare or protection, are dealt with appropriately and with the guidance for reporting in Wavepower 2024.

12. Ensure that confidentiality is maintained appropriately and in line with the best interests of the child/adult.

13. Ensure that all papers and electronic correspondence relating to a person's safeguarding matters are held in a safe & secure manner.

14. A duty of care is a legal obligation which is imposed on an organisation or an individual that requires them to adhere to a standard of reasonable care when undertaking any task or act that could potentially cause harm to another. Paid & volunteer staff have a duty to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults, how they should respond to child protection concerns & make a referral to the local authority Children' Social Care, Police, Local Authority Designated Officer or other agencies if necessary.

15. We recognise that safeguarding in changing rooms is important & we have separate 'sexes' areas. Mobile phones and devices should not be used under any circumstances in a changing room area during a Swim England regulated activity. We have a zero tolerance approach to the use of mobile phones in changing areas. All use of mobile devices in a changing room will be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and the centre.

**(Swim England Wavepower, p.9-79)**