

The Brotherhood of British Scouts

The British Boy Scouts and British Girl Scouts Association

Founded Empire Day May 24th.1909 : Registered Charity at Law No. 288631

Incorporating the 'CHUMS' Scout Patrols founded February 1908

Grand Scoutmaster : David A. Cooksley Dip. Arch. (Hons.), RIBA.

Grand Scoutmaster Emeritus : The Reverend Michael Foster KCSJ., SSC., MIWO.

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BBS CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT :

GENERAL PRINCIPLES : The BBS as a caring organisation, keeps in mind a concern for all individuals, Scout Leaders, Adult members and children. As a Christian organisation we are also committed to accept the principle of redemption and forgiveness (Mark 11:25-26). Also to be kept in mind that as a Christian organisation, the safeguarding of children has always claimed the highest importance – again with a scriptural basis with a warning to those who offend little ones (Mark 9:42).

The BBS has robust child protection policies (see below), which will not allow anyone with a conviction to be in membership let alone be a Leader/Scouter. Neither can they be a Trustee of the BBS as a Charity – which whilst being a Trustee may not be unlawful and allowable (distinct from contact with young people), the BBS has tightened its policies. If the press knew someone with a conviction for child abuse was a trustee of a Charity dealing with young people, they would have a field day!

In the BBS regulations on Child Protection procedures to be followed, is this; “seek to ensure that no one remains, or is placed in a position, which could cause any further compromise.”

The BBS offers a safe home with a good reputation (it has been in existence for over 100 years, without a single serving scout officer being convicted for child abuse). To keep it this way since the summer of 1993, the BBS has adopted rigorous child protection policies – always constantly under review. Before 1993 there were regulations about checking applicants for warrants, which had served well. In fact whilst investigating the background of two new adult members, it was discovered using public domain sources (The National Newspaper Archive in Collindale, London) that they both had convictions. In addition to ending their BBS Scout Careers, much tighter policies were needed and framed.

MINIMUM STANDARDS – ORDER OF WORLD SCOUTS.

In a nutshell the minimum standards for Associations in the Order of World Scouts (founded in 1911) are these;

Each member Association should maintain these minimum standards;

- 1) To have in place measures to protect young people from abuse (physical, mental, sexual).
- 2) To carry insurance to cover legal liability claims.
- 3) To demonstrate by teaching and example of life, the Christian Faith.

This means that there should be robust child protection policies in place, and all those with substantial

contact with the children must have CRB/D&BS Clearance. In addition there must be robust safety policies in place (that as far as humanly possible you can keep all free from physical harm), and that each unit has third party/public liability insurance.

The following regulations are given in the latest BBS website revisions.

WARRANTS & APPOINTMENTS:

All members of the BBS over the age of 16 years.

(a) All members of the BBS, over the age of 16 years, and not just those who are working, or in regular contact with children and young people, must provide evidence of a Disclosure & Barring Service (D&BS) clearance check within the last three years, that does not identify them as an offender against children, young people or vulnerable adults, or as a person on the sexual offenders register. The D&BS check must be renewed every three years or being on the continuous review system. A Certified copy (which can be a photocopy) of the D&BS Certificate must be forwarded to the Chief Commissioner of the BBS & BGS. The Certification can be done by a Clergyman in full time employment of a Church, a Police Officer, a Magistrate, or a Solicitor.

No person who has a criminal conviction (whether legally 'spent' or not) in connection with offences against children, young people, or vulnerable adults shall be Warranted as a Leader, or hold any position, at Headquarters or Group Level. Neither shall they be eligible for membership of the Association on the basis that they will have access to children and young people.

(b) Before making, or ratifying any appointment, the Executive Committee reserves the right to make such enquiries as are necessary concerning the suitability of the applicant, and all applicants must disclose in writing any offence committed against children, young people, or vulnerable adults whether considered 'spent' or not, and regardless of whether the offence is considered inconsequential or not.

(c) All members of the BBS, over the age of 16 years, working, or in contact with children and young people, must provide two personal referees.

Commissioners.

(a) The appointment of Commissioners to aid and assist Group Scouters and to provide a link with Headquarters, will be made by the Chief Commissioner with the approval of the Executive Committee. They will act on behalf of the Headquarters.

(b) All Headquarters staff rank as Honorary Commissioners.

Scouters.

(a) The appointment of all Scouters made shall be the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner, an appointed deputy or the appropriate Headquarters Commissioner.

(b) The application forms for Scouter Warrants shall be forwarded to the Chief Commissioners Office unless otherwise directed. No Warrant shall be issued without the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

Lay Adult Help.

(a) The appointment of Lay Adult Helper shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Headquarters Commissioner.

GENERAL RULES: REGULATIONS FOR ACTIVITIES: CHILD PROTECTION.

2.1 If a child, or young person discloses to a Scouter that he or she has been abused, the Scouter should;

(a) allow the child to speak without interruption. Whilst support should be shown to the child no judgement should be passed on the case. The Scouter must inform the child that the information will be passed on.

(b) record the facts, as soon as possible thereafter and immediately inform the Commissioner responsible for the area concerned.

(c) report the matter to the local Social Services.

(d) make a record of the action undertaken and along with the record of the facts, forward copies to the Commissioner, the General Headquarters, and the Sponsoring Authority.

(e) ensure no Scouting situation can continue, or arise, which could cause any further concern.

2.2 If a Scouter suspects a child is being abused, the Scouter should;

(a) record the facts, as soon as possible thereafter and immediately inform the Commissioner responsible for the area concerned.

(b) report the matter to the local Social Services.

(c) make a record of the action undertaken and along with the record of the facts, forward copies to the Commissioner, the General Headquarters, and the Sponsoring Authority.

(d) ensure no Scouting situation can continue, or arise, which could cause any further concern.

2.3 If a Scouter receives an allegation concerning another adult, or about himself, or herself, the Scouter should;

(a) record the facts, as soon as possible thereafter and immediately inform the Commissioner responsible for the area concerned.

(b) If considered advisable, report the matter to the local Social Services.

(c) make a record of the action undertaken and along with the record of the facts, forward a copies to the Commissioner, the General Headquarters, and the Sponsoring Authority.

(d) seek to ensure that no one remains, or is placed in a position, which could cause any further compromise.

2.4 In all situations the Scouter must refer, and leave the matter to a Senior Commissioner and to the appropriate authorities. Scouters must not conduct their own investigations.