



Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC)

Safeguarding Policy and Guidance.

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document (7 pages) is to set out LMC Safeguarding policy and recognise that the safeguarding and protecting of all club members is paramount, especially children, young people and adults at risk.

The LMC accepts the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure all participants in club activities (walking, climbing and mountaineering) are protected against all forms of abuse and harm. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all club members, to ensure that the LMC is a safe, inclusive and welcoming club.

The term safeguarding includes the wider and more complex issues relating to child protection, vulnerability, domestic abuse, mental health and bullying etc.

The LMC now has some club members under 18 years of age and, although not actively recruiting further under 18s, this has safeguarding implications for the club. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18, as defined by the Children's Act 1989.

British Mountaineering Council (BMC) affiliated clubs **must** put in place and adhere to the BMC's Safeguarding Policy, which covers all club members irrespective of their age. The club and its officers have additional responsibilities and duties that relate to those under 18 years.

This document sets out the clubs' responsibilities and what should be done by the LMC to address and mitigate against any such risks.

In doing so, BMC documents have been studied, conversations and training has been undertaken with Helen Murphy, the nominated safeguarding lead at the BMC.

2. Impacts on LMC

If the LMC allow under 18s to join as members and attend meets without a parent, carer or an adult acting in loco parentis (anyone assuming parental responsibility) then the following actions must be carried out:

- LMC must put in place the BMC's Safeguarding Policy.
- LMC must appoint a designated safeguarding officer.

The LMC could opt to allow under 18s as members or to attend meets, **only if** they are accompanied by a parent, carer or by an adult who has accepted the role of being in loco parentis. A parent may give consent to any club member (but not the club) they wish to take their child on any club activity. This is an arrangement between the child's parents and the person accepting responsibility for the child or young person.

The person accepting the role of in loco parentis will be required to exercise a duty of care that would be provided by a reasonably prudent parent.

However, if an adult is acting in loco parentis, the club must make sure that it is clear who has the duty of care and responsibility for the child or young person at any given moment and whether that duty of care is handed from one adult to another.

When another person's child is involved in any club activities the parents and child must be informed about the nature of the activities to be undertaken and any other arrangements, so that they are fully aware of any potential risks involved in such activities and as such make an informed decision. The BMC participation statement is included in the LMC consent form below.

3. Risk and Reasonableness

Any Club which allows under 18s with or without parents, carers or adults acting in loco parentis should consider two questions that can help to serve as useful guides when considering difficult issues:

- What are the risks to children and young people and how can they be managed?
- What is reasonable in these circumstances and how can we take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and others at risk in our care?

4. Assess the suitability of the Club Huts and other venues.

The Club Huts and any other venues used for club accommodation need to be assessed for suitability for under 18s, when accompanied by parents, carers or adult nominated in loco parentis.

Whenever practicable the following guidance should be followed,

- Children and young people should not sleep in the same room as another adult or adults where separate facilities are available.
- Other hut users should be informed that children and young people may attend the huts.
- There should be separate male and female sleeping areas for children and young people. If both genders are present at huts, then there should be male and female supervising adults.

- Whenever possible, an adult should avoid being alone with a child or young person. Those supervising children or young people and those likely to be on their own with them should be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) vetting.
- Children and young people should not be involved in club hut maintenance meets due to the additional hazards such as power tools, sharp implements hazardous building or cleaning materials etc.

It is further recommended and good practise that the Club adopt the use of the BMC Huts Consent form for adults in loco parentis, see below form.

5 Role of the Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding Officer is the key contact within the club for managing issues of safeguarding, vulnerability, and child protection procedures, as set out in the BMC Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Officer is responsible for raising awareness of the issues of safeguarding within the club and working towards implementing the BMC safeguarding Policy within the club.

Contacts need to be established locally with the key statutory agencies or with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). In turn the BMC will disseminate information passed to the organisation by LSCBs back out to the club.

6. Person Specification for designated Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding Officer must be:

- A Club member
- Experienced climber, hill walker or mountaineer.
- Ideally with experience of supervising or working with young people.
- Enhanced DBS vetted.
- Willing to attend training that will enable them to fulfil the requirements of the role.

7. What a Safeguarding Officer needs to do

The appointed Safeguarding Officer must: -

- Read and understand the BMC Safeguarding Policy
- Consult with the BMC Safeguarding officer as appropriate.
- Attend a Safeguarding & Child Protection Awareness course and other appropriate training.

- Work towards implementing the BMC Safeguarding Policy within the club.
- Inform and advise the club committee and its members on safeguarding issues.
- If the club is running a specific youth event where there are under 18s not with their own parents or a specified person in loco parentis, ensure that there is a DBS checked person(s) supervising the under 18s and that everyone is clear about their roles and responsibilities.

Link to the BMC regarding.

1. Online reporting form.
2. Child / adult concern procedures.
3. Reporting child / adults concern flowchart.
4. BMC Safeguarding policy.

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/safeguarding>

Useful contacts

LMC Safeguarding Officer - Mike Haines

Email: youth-officer@lancsmc.org

Phone Number 07857271242

BMC safeguarding Team

Email: safeguarding@thebmc.co.uk

Phone number 0161 438 3305

BMC Safeguarding Manager – Helen Murphy

Email: helen.murphy@thebmc.co.uk

Phone number: 0161 438 3305

Childline

An entirely confidential helpline

Web www.childline.org.uk

Phone number: 08001111

NSPCC

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Phone number: 0808 800 500



LMC / BMC Huts Consent form for adults in loco parentis

Clubs allowing adults acting in loco parentis to bring a child to stay at club huts or other venues or participate in club activities may wish to require that adult to obtain written consent from the child's parent. This form may be used for that purpose.

Parental Consent Form

I give consent for my child

to accompany (*name of adult*)

to

from (date) to

I understand the BMC participation statement that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering activities involve a risk of personal injury or death. Participants should be aware of these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

I have been informed about the nature of the accommodation and the sleeping arrangements. I understand that huts may have communal facilities, which include communal sleeping arrangements.

I understand that the above adult will endeavour to ensure that appropriate sleeping accommodation will be arranged for my child, regarding age and sex and with regard to the needs of other members present.

In the event of illness or an accident requiring emergency hospital treatment, I authorise the adult named on this form to sign on my behalf any written form of consent required by the hospital authorities, if the delay required to obtain my own signature is considered inadvisable by the doctor or surgeon concerned.

Signed(parent) Date

Address

Tel Mobile

This form is to be completed by the parent(s) and given to the adult named above before the visit to the hut takes place.

