

The Chamois Mountaineering Club Ltd (CMC)

Statement on Child Protection/safeguarding

The British Mountaineering Council (The BMC) guidance on Child Protection makes clear that Clubs which operate Mountaineering Huts have a duty of care to ensure that arrangements for the use of the huts by children or vulnerable adults comply with sound safeguarding policy. A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

It advises that when the hut is booked by an outside party which includes children or 'vulnerable adults' club members should not use the hut. The BMC state that the outside party using the hut has sole responsibility for their own child protection or safeguarding arrangements. It is not the responsibility of club whose facilities are being used. This guidance can be found on the BMC web site.

CMC acknowledges that it has a duty of care to safeguard the welfare of children or young people or 'vulnerable adults' and is committed to ensuring that CMC complies with all statutory and best practice guidance.

CMC recognises that the welfare of the child or young person or 'vulnerable adults' is paramount and that all people have the right to equal protection from harm or abuse whilst on club premises involving any club member.

The purpose of this policy is to:-

- A) provide protection for children, young people and vulnerable adults who use CMC premises
- B) To provide outside group leaders with guidance on procedures to be adopted whilst using CMC premises.
- C) To provide guidance to members on how to use the premises and conduct themselves if a youth group is using the CMC premises
- D) The ensure that the policy is regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to comply with all statutory and best practice guidance

The CMC premises at Marconi Hall have for members only use separate and exclusive dormitory, toilet, shower, kitchen, drying, heating and sitting room facilities. These can be isolated from the area being used by an affected group. Such that only in an emergency situation should members need to access the part of the hut being used by the group with child protection or safeguarding needs.

The premises have thus been configured so as to conform to BMC policy whilst allowing club members to use the exclusive 'members' only areas.

In order to comply with the BMC policy the following arrangements WILL be applied in the event of a group with child protection or safeguarding requirements booking Marconi Hall:-

- 1) If the Hut Booking Secretary (HBS) receives a request for such a booking they WILL ensure that this is shown on the Club Web site, an all members email is sent out and an entry in the next available newsletter. The HBS WILL also notify the Cleveland Mountaineering Club that such a booking has been made and that these restrictions will apply.
- 2) The HBS will ensure that the supervising adult of the group is notified of the following arrangements:-
 - The Group leader will lock the two dividing doors by activating the single switch spur in the mains Electrical Cupboard in the boot room. The Leader is responsible for ensuring that the upstairs and downstairs doors are closed and locked.
The switch has a neon indicator to show that the electro-magnetic locks are energised. These will divide the building into two separate parts so to ensure no contact between the Group & any members using the members' facilities. The down stairs door is normally in a shut position so the lock will activate, the upstairs doors may require the door unlatching and pulling too.
 - In the event of the fire alarm activating, both the isolating locks will automatically release. It is ONLY in this situation that it is possible that members of the group may come into contact with club members unless any request for assistance with how the building works is made to a club member by the responsible adult from the group.
 - The responsible adult for the group will be responsible for all child protection or safeguarding issues in their exclusive occupation of their side of the premises.
 - Club members are required to comply with any reasonable requests from the group leader about child protection or safeguarding issues.
- 3) In the event of a member of CMC wishing to bring a person under the age of 18 who is not their child as a guest and not in the situation described above that member will assume all responsibilities of a person in loco parentis and will ensure that all BMC procedures are complied with. These can be found on the BMC web site.
- 4) Only emergency work on Marconi Hall and its environs may be undertaken unless the Group Leader gives clear advance permission for such work.

- 5) Members will act in a responsible and respectful manner towards members of the youth group.
- 6) This policy will be reviewed annually at the CMC September Committee meeting and any necessary revisions notified to club members and Cleveland Mountaineering Club.

In summary, the Club's responsibility, following BMC guidance, rests with ensuring adequate separation within and around Marconi Hall between groups with child protection or safeguarding needs and Club Members. It will also ensure that members are informed of bookings by groups which contain groups with child protection or safeguarding needs.

It is the Group Leader who will take responsibility for and control over the dividing doors between the two sets of accommodation to ensure that the above policy is complied with and thus adequate child protection or safeguarding procedures are in place.

James Scott
Chairman
20th May 2019