

HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE ANGLING SOCIETY

POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

1 POLICY OVERVIEW

Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society (HAHAS) recognises its responsibility to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse.

This policy commits all HAHAS members to 1) taking steps to prevent abuse from happening during our events or activities or on our social media and 2) reporting any suspicions that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused. The policy is also intended to protect HAHAS against false allegations of abuse.

This document sets out our roles and responsibilities and outlines the procedures we should follow.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Club Safeguarding Officer and Chairman

The Club Safeguarding Officer and Chairman are responsible for:

- Identifying events or activities likely to include children or vulnerable adults, to which these safeguarding procedures will apply. These will mainly be school tuition sessions, the *Give Angling a Go* event and club evenings. If HAHAS members run any other tuition sessions, then they will be solely responsible for following the correct safeguarding procedures.
- Ensuring that procedures are in place to safeguard and protect those children and vulnerable adults.
- Making this policy available to the parents and/or carers of those children and vulnerable adults and informing them that HAHAS is not acting *in loco parentis* (that is, in place of a parent or guardian).
- Running DBS checks on all HAHAS members who have worked with children or vulnerable adults more than three times, these checks to be renewed every three years.
- Ensuring that HAHAS members and other people involved in our activities are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and receive training and support.
- Making sure records are kept of any suspicions or incidents of abuse and that these are stored securely.
- Reporting any suspicions or incidents of abuse to the Angling Trust Chief Welfare Officer, social services or the police as appropriate.
- Taking action to deal with any cases of bad practice within HAHAS.
- Being open to suggestions for improvements to our working procedures.
- Reviewing this policy annually and whenever there is a change in the relevant legislation.

2.2 HAHAS Members and Other People Involved in our Activities

All HAHAS members and other people involved in our activities are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with this policy, seeking clarification from the Club Safeguarding Officer as necessary.
- Following the *HAHAS Angling Tuition Code of Conduct*
- Reporting any concerns about bad practice within HAHAS to the Club Safeguarding Officer or the Chairman.
- Reporting to the Club Safeguarding Officer or the Chairman any suspicions that children and vulnerable adults are being abused, be that at a HAHAS event, elsewhere, or on social media. (See [Appendix A](#) for information about possible signs of abuse and [Appendix B](#) for advice on how to respond if a child or vulnerable adult tells you they are being abused.)
- Contacting the police on 999 if any person is in immediate danger or if a crime is being committed.
- Considering if we might be able to improve our procedures and if so, raising this with the Club Safeguarding Officer or Chairman.

PLEASE NOTE – our responsibility is not to decide if abuse is taking place, or to deal with it, but to report concerns to the authorities through the channels described above.

3 CONTACT DETAILS FOR REPORTING CONCERNS

HAHAS Club Safeguarding Officer:

Matthew Pierce 07780-997618

HAHAS Chairman:

Bob Gibbs 07946-630045

Angling Trust safeguarding lead:

Richard Hadley 07720-974811

Camden Council Children's Services:

Phone: 020 7974 3317

Out of office hours (after 5pm, weekends and bank holidays): 020 7974 4444

Email: LBCMASHadmin@camden.gov.uk

Camden Council Vulnerable Adult's Services:

Phone 020 7974 4000 (option 1)

Email: adultsocialcare@camden.gov.uk

4 DEFINITIONS

4.1 Child

The Children Act 1989 defines a child as a person under 18 for most purposes.

4.2 Vulnerable Adult

The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Scheme (PoVA 2004) defines a vulnerable adult as a person aged 18 or over who has a condition of the following type:

- A substantial learning or physical disability.
- A physical or mental illness or mental disorder, chronic or otherwise, including addiction to alcohol or drugs.
- A significant reduction in physical or mental capacity.

4.3 Forms of Abuse

The definitions below are based on *Working Together to Safeguard Children - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (Department for Education 2018).

Children or vulnerable adults may be abused within a family or within an institutional or community setting (e.g. a sports club). They are mostly abused by people known to them. Children may be abused by adults or by other children.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse involves hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child or vulnerable adult.

An example of this in angling would be hitting someone as a punishment.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on their emotional development. It may involve making them feel worthless, unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve imposing unrealistic expectations on them, exposing them to the ill-treatment of others or causing them to feel frightened or in danger. It may involve the exploitation or corruption of children or vulnerable adults.

An example of this in angling would be getting angry and impatient with someone if they struggle with the activity in hand e.g. casting.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities whether or not they are aware of what is happening. It includes both penetrative and non-penetrative acts. It may include non-contact activities, such as showing pornographic materials to children or vulnerable adults, making them watch sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. It includes grooming children or vulnerable adults in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males; women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can children.

An example of this in angling would be touching someone in an inappropriate way.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child or vulnerable adult's basic physical or psychological needs, in a way that is likely to result in serious impairment of their health or development. It may involve the failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, failure to protect against physical and emotional harm or danger or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of a child or vulnerable adult's basic emotional needs.

An example of this in angling would be asking people to carry on fishing in the rain without adequate clothes or an umbrella.

Bullying

Bullying is the most frequently reported kind of abuse or harm affecting children and vulnerable adults. It can be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour or language, usually repeated over time in such a way that the victim finds it difficult to defend themselves. It often takes place on social media.

An example of this in angling would be abusing them via the club's Facebook page.

5 REVIEW AND VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1	11-Jun-2023	Matthew Pierce	Initial draft, incorporating comments by Richard Nicoll. Reviewed by Bob Gibbs.
2	06-Jul-2024	Matthew Pierce	Redrafted following annual review as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Checked with Richard Hadley (Angling Trust safeguarding lead) that there have been no changes to relevant legislation• Checked that contact details are still correct• Updated the first bullet in section 2.1 to clarify the scope of this policy• Minor edits to improve clarity Changes in this version agreed by Bob Gibbs.

APPENDIX A - SIGNS OF ABUSE

Signs that a child or vulnerable adult may be being abused include the following:

- Unexplained injuries such as bruises, cuts or burns (particularly on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries) or injuries for which the explanation given seems unlikely.
- They describe what appears to be an abusive act involving them, or someone else expresses concern about them.
- Unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g. becoming very quiet or withdrawn, or displaying sudden outbursts of temper).
- Inappropriate sexual awareness / engaging in sexually explicit behaviour.
- Sudden or unusual distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Having difficulty in making friends.
- Being prevented from or unwilling to socialise.
- Overeating or loss of appetite; or a sudden weight change.
- Becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt.

Note that this list is not exhaustive and that these indicators alone are not proof that abuse is taking place. The important thing is to report any concerns to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Chairman so that they can investigate further or take it up with social services or the police.

APPENDIX B – RESPONDING TO A DIRECT DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE

Occasionally children or vulnerable adults may tell someone about abuse or bullying, usually because they trust them. This is called direct disclosure.

If this happens to you, it is important to respond calmly and dispassionately. You will need to:

- Listen carefully to what the child or vulnerable adult says and try not to interrupt. Make sure you understand what they are saying.
- Reassure them that they are not to blame and have done the right thing in telling you.
- Explain early on that to protect them (and perhaps others), you will need to involve other people; do not promise to keep the conversation secret.
- Ask questions for clarification only. Don't ask leading questions (that suggest a particular answer). Do not speculate or make assumptions.
- Do not make negative comments about the alleged abuser. Do not approach the alleged abuser.
- Record the conversation in writing straight away, using the person's words as closely as possible. Fill out the *HAHAS Abuse Incident Report Form* and contact the Club Safeguarding Officer or Chairman.