

Kimberley & District Striders Running Club

Club Protection Policy for Young and Vulnerable People

1 Young and Vulnerable Person Protection Policy

Kimberley & District Striders Running Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every young and vulnerable person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of its members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any running club activity. A vulnerable adult is defined as any person aged 18 or over whom

- Is in need of assistance by reason of mental, physical or learning disability, age or illness and who;
- Is unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation which may be occasioned by the act or omissions of other people.

We subscribe to the ARC Protection Policy for Young and Vulnerable People and the Procedures and Guidelines included therein. We endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document

2 The key principles of the ARC Protection Policy for Young and Vulnerable People are that:

- The welfare of the young or vulnerable person is the most important consideration
- All young and vulnerable people must be protected from abuse regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, disability, racial origin or religious beliefs.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to rapidly and in an appropriate manner.
- Working in partnership with other organisations, young and vulnerable people and their parents/carers is vital.

3 We recognise that every young or vulnerable person who participates in our sport should be able to take part in a safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Kimberley & District Striders Running Club acknowledges that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

4 Kimberley & District Striders Running Club has a role to play in protecting the welfare of all young and vulnerable persons by guarding them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is accepted that the ARC Regulations (see [Appendix 3](#) in the *Association Of Running Clubs*

Protection Policy For Young And Vulnerable People) apply to everyone in our sport whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This applies whether you are a volunteer, helper, coach, or club official.

We endorse and adopt ARC's Protection Policy for Young and Vulnerable People and the best Practice Guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will :

- Request identification documents
- Meet or interview the applicant
- Request and follow up two references before appointing
- Require a CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate

All current Kimberley & District Striders Running Club members with direct access to young and vulnerable people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure. If there are concerns regarding an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Kimberley & District Striders Running Club guidance will be sought from ARC. It is accepted that ARC will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the CRB Unit and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of young and vulnerable people.

It is accepted that ARC aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with young and vulnerable people and training with young or vulnerable people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to young or vulnerable people and to minimise the risk of "grooming" within running.

5 Kimberley & District Striders Running Club supports ARC's Whistle-blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can whistle-blow by writing to the Secretary, ARC, 19 Sheephouse Green, Wotton, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6QW or by telephoning the Secretary on 01306 888886 or by going direct to the Police, Social Services or the NSPCC. Kimberley & District Striders Running Club encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

6 Kimberley & District Striders Running Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with ARC's role profile. The post holder will or has attended a suitable course to provide training. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents/carers regarding concerns for the welfare of any young or vulnerable person. They liaise directly with the ARC CPO and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

7 We acknowledge and endorse ARC's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all runners or parents/ carers should be able to inform and know that incidents

will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO or member of the committee or alternatively in cases of serious bullying contact the ARC CPO.

8 Codes of conduct for young people, parents/carers and coaches have been implemented by Kimberley & District Striders Running Club. In order to validate these codes of conduct the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by ARC in more serious circumstances. All prospective members under 18 years of age will be informed of these codes.

9 Further advice on Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection matters can be obtained from the NSPCC Child Protection 24-Hour Helpline 0808 800 5000.