



CRIMEBEAT Child Protection Policy

Putting Young People First

Wiltshire and Swindon Crimebeat is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people

Crimebeat Mission Statement: “Young People Creating Safer Communities”

It is the policy of Wiltshire and Swindon Crimebeat to safeguard the welfare of all young people participating in Crimebeat activities by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

Accepting that Crimebeat projects are delivered by a range of professionals and volunteers, whose organisations have varying policies, the attached guidance and advice is produced to provide overarching guidelines, especially where currently no policy exists.

It is not intended to replace existing child protection policies, of current Crimebeat partner organisations, although those organisations without corresponding policies will need to produce one or to adopt the Crimebeat Child Protection Policy and Code of Good Practice as detailed here.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

Wiltshire and Swindon Crimebeat is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people

We do this by:-

- Recognising that all children and young people have the right to freedom from abuse.
- Requiring that lead workers and those who have substantial access to children and young people undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check.
- Requiring any group, organisation or agency running a Crimebeat event to have their own Child Protection Policy in place or to adopt the Crimebeat Child Protection policy and guidelines ‘Putting Young People First’
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse.
- Regularly reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection Policy.

- Requiring any group who works with Crimebeat to sign our Terms and Conditions including our Code of Conduct relating to Child Protection.

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CRIMEBEAT CHILD PROTECTION A CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

DO:-

Do treat everyone with respect.

Do plan activities which involve more than one other person or are within the sight or hearing of others.

Do respect a child/young person's right to personal privacy.

Do have separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and young people, male and female.

Do encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.

Do avoid situations that compromise your relationship with young people and are unacceptable within a relationship of trust.

Do remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.

Do recognise that awareness is required even in sensitive moments of counselling, such as dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse.

DO NOT:-

Do NOT permit abusive peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying).

Do NOT engage in rough physical contact games with young people.

Do NOT have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others.

Do NOT do things of a personal nature for young people that they can do for themselves.

Do NOT jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.

Do NOT allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour such as tantrums or crushes.

Do NOT show favouritism to any individual.

Do NOT make suggestive remarks or gestures, even in fun.

Do NOT let suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse go unrecorded or unreported.

Do NOT rely on your good name to protect you.

Do NOT believe "It could never happen to me".

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WHAT HAPPENS IF?

If you suspect a child/young person is being abused:

1. Immediately inform your manager or supervisor who will refer to the local Children's services.
2. Record the facts as you know them, to include time/date and sign. Give a copy to your manager or supervisor.
3. Ensure that no other situation arises which could cause any further harm.

If a child/young person tells you about abuse by someone else:

1. Allow the child/young person to speak without interruption, accepting what is said. Do not question.
2. Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgment.
3. Advise that you will try to offer support, but that you must pass the information on.
4. Same steps as 1 – 3 as in suspecting a child is being abused.

If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself:

1. Immediately tell your manager or supervisor, who will refer to local Children's services.
2. Record the facts as you know them including time/date and signature. Give a copy to your manager or supervisor.
3. Try to ensure no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise.

You must refer – you must not investigate

Statement

I have read and understood the Crimebeat Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct for Adults Working with Young People.

Signed

.....Name.....

OrganisationDate