



# OutdoorLads

## Safeguarding Good and Bad Practice for OutdoorLads Leaders and Volunteers



Get out more!

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## Preface

In an activity, environment or a sport, such as ours' the majority of adults are healthy, autonomous individuals who are managing their own safety without issue, and sometimes that of those who they may be coaching, guiding or instructing.

It is recognised that OutdoorLads is not a provider of welfare, health or relief services. OutdoorLads volunteers do not to act as social workers, police or carers for our members and there is no expectation that leaders take on this additional responsibility. This policy expects none of these things. It simply expects that if, or when, you become aware that an adult may be at risk you feel able and supported to raise a concern.

What is expected is that if you do become aware of a situation, you should offer support and, if the adult accepts that offer, then follow the policy outlined below. The exception to this of course is when a crime is being committed or the person is in immediate danger, in which case you should call 999.

### **So, if you do have concerns about a person...**

If you do become aware that abuse or poor practice is taking place, or you suspect abuse or poor practice may be occurring, or you are told about something that may be abuse or poor practice of an adult at risk\* – either at an OutdoorLads event, or that relates to the behaviour of OutdoorLads staff, volunteers or members – please follow the procedures outlined in this document and also contact the OutdoorLads Lead Safeguarding Officer, Fergus Brunning: [fergus.brunning@OutdoorLads.com](mailto:fergus.brunning@OutdoorLads.com)

If you do have concerns about an adult who is at risk or is vulnerable, there are a number of things you can do immediately. These are listed below:

1. Firstly, if possible, try speaking to the person you have concerns about and ask them whether they are they happy with what is happening to them or not.
2. If they need further support consult Adult Social Care in the area in which they live (a quick internet search will give you this information).
3. If it is an emergency contact the police. Phone 999 if the person is in immediate danger.
4. Section 7 of this policy has more guidance if you have concerns about someone.

\*The adult at risk does not have to be a OutdoorLads member.

## 1. Introduction

OutdoorLads is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and accepts its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of adults involved in Hill walking, Mountaineering, Camping, Hostelling, Climbing, Biking and our other outdoor pursuit activity in accordance with the Care Act 2014. The Care Act is mainly about people who are over 18 in need of care and support, usually from their Local Authority.

**OutdoorLads Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy & Procedures apply to all individuals involved in OutdoorLads activities.**

This document outlines some good and bad practise to help support leaders in understand how best to apply the principles, procedures and processes contained within the policy.

## 2. Good practice

It can be difficult to distinguish poor practice from abuse, whether intentional or accidental.

It is not the responsibility of any individual involved in the ODL to make judgments regarding whether or not abuse is taking place, however, all personnel have the responsibility to recognise and identify poor practice and potential abuse, and act on this if they have concerns.

### **The ODL expects that all Leaders and Volunteers:**

- Adopt and endorse the ODL Codes of Conduct
- Are aware of the OutdoorLads Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults policy

### **Everyone should:**

- Aim to make the experience of ODL activities fun and enjoyable
- Promote fairness and playing by the rules
- Not tolerate the use of prohibited or illegal substances
- Treat all adults equally and preserve their dignity; this includes giving more and less talented members of a group similar attention, time and respect

### **OutdoorLads Volunteers and leaders:**

- Ensure that everyone on a OutdoorLads event feels safe, welcome and respected
- Ensure that the members are comfortable in how the leaders are running an event; they are aware of appropriate to the physical requirements of being able to attend an ODL activity
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect, encouraging adults at risk to take responsibility for their own development and decision- making
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with people. Physical contact (touching) can be appropriate so long as:
  - It is neither intrusive nor disturbing
  - The Member's permission has been openly given
  - It is delivered in an open environment
  - It is needed to demonstrate during a coaching session
- Be an excellent role model by maintaining appropriate standards of behaviour
- Gain the adult at risk consent and, where appropriate, the consent of relevant carers, in writing, to administer emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises
- Be aware of medical conditions, disabilities, existing injuries and medicines being taken and keep written records of any injury or accident that occurs, together with details of treatments provided
- Arrange that someone with current knowledge of emergency first aid is available at all times

## 3. Poor practice

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided:

- Assuming the requirements or needs of an adult whom hasn't provided a disclosure
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form
- Using language that might be regarded as inappropriate by the adult and which may be hurtful or disrespectful
- Making sexually suggestive comments, even in jest
- Reducing an adult to tears as a form of control
- Letting allegations made by an adult go un-investigated, unrecorded, or not acted upon
- Taking an adult at risk alone in a car on journeys, however short
- Inviting or taking an adult at risk to your home or office where they will be alone with you
- Doing things of a personal nature that adults at risk can do for themselves

**Note:** *At times it may be acceptable to do some of the above. In these cases, to protect both the adult at risk and yourself, seek written consent from the adult at risk and, where appropriate, their carers and ensure that the Lead Safeguarding/Welfare Officer of your organisation is aware of the situation and gives their approval.*

If, during your care, an adult at risk suffers any injury, seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstands/misinterprets something you have done, report these incidents as soon as possible to another adult in the organisation and make a brief written note of it.